

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.

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*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

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## WELCOME

Please stand

## GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## OPENING HYMN

## For The Lord Is Good

For the Lord is good  
And His love endures forever  
He's a faithful God  
To all generations  
For the Lord is good

And His mercies will not fail us  
They are new each day  
O lift your voice and say  
The Lord is good

Great is Your faithfulness O Lord  
(Great is Your faithfulness O Lord)  
Your loving-kindness fills our hearts to overflowing  
Songs of rejoicing and sweet praise  
(Songs of praise)  
They fill our hearts  
(They fill our hearts)  
They fill our days

The Lord is good  
The Lord is good  
The Lord is good

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Please be seated

### FIRST READING

**Acts 1:6-14**

A: A reading from the Book of Acts, the first chapter.

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SECOND READING

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

A: A reading from the First Book of Peter, the fourth and fifth chapters.

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little

while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

## HYMN OF PRAISE


*Refrain*




Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.



Spread the good news o'er all the earth:



Je - sus has died and has ris - en. *Refrain*

## GOSPEL

**John 17:1-11**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

## HYMN

## When Peace, Like A River ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

### *Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

## PERSONAL CREEDS

### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, these people have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their baptism:

*Braelyn Isabelle Burgess*  
*Theodore Alfred Lieb*  
*Jillian Grace Unger*

Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sisters whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold them in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **C: Amen.**

We rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and to assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian Community and its mission in the world. In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his Church. In this community you have learned God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

***Confirmands: I do***

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**Congregation: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear his Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

***Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.***

P: People of God, do you promise to support Braelyn, Theodore, and Jillian, and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## **PRAYER**

P: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, spirit and knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **LAYING ON OF HANDS (Repeated for each Confirmand)**

P: Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

God in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in *Braelyn/Theodore/Jillian* the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY**

P: Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

P: ...Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

### PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

*Please stand*

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**C: Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**  
P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving Noah and all creatures from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea to a land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for his death and resurrection that reconciled all things to you. Praise to you for your Holy Spirit poured out on all nations, inspiring us to love, live, and serve.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## COMMUNION

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.  
Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand*

## BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

# You Are Mine ELW 581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*  
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*  
 all will know my name. *To refrain*  
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



*Refrain*  
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



*To stanzas 3 and 4*  
 love you and you are mine."

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **St. Matthew's Staff**

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