

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Pastor Christian McMullan

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania

610-458-5675

www.stmatthews-church.org

WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God the Almighty,
† Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Psalm 119:129-136

A: A reading from Psalm 119.

A: ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

A: ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

C: ¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

A: ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

A: ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

C: ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the eighth chapter.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN

Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

THE PRAYERS

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: ...God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

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

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of
faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, One God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love through these gifts of bread and wine, your body and blood.

Strengthen us that we may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table

Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)

There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table

Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)

There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table

Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

St. Matthew's Staff

Pastor Christian McMullan cmcmullan71@gmail.com

Daniel Bower, Music Director worship@stmatthews-church.org

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785

Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381

Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675

Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator 610-458-8121