

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 11, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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

Come Now is the Time to Worship

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose You now

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength
We gladly choose you now.

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God restores us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to live out your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Nature groans from our overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Apathy keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions stop us from showing genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to you and one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life
with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just,
and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1, 6-9

A: A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the twenty-fifth chapter.

- ¹ O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- ⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
- ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
- ⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
- ⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

A: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, the fourth chapter.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

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, 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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

MESSAGE

HYMN

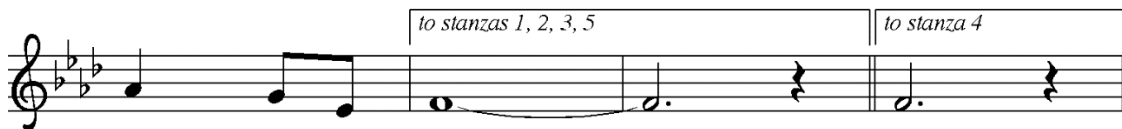
Shepherd Me, O God ELW 780

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your



Refrain

walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

THE PRAYERS

P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

P: ...Hear us, O God.

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth is abundantly fruitful.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

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, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
In the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals
The seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
You sent your Son to call us to yourself,
to heal our ills, and to form us again into one.

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, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave,
We await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Holy Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
Strengthen us to serve all who are hungry and in need,
And by this bread and cup form us into the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church,
both now and forever.
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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and forgiving love.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your freedom, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Step by Step

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days
(repeat 3x)

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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

Beth Bilinski, Faith Formation Coordinator stmattsfaitinformation@gmail.com