Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., April 20, 2025



Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

All who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome; you may also come forward to receive a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a continuous line. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please do not sip from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. The pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

PRELUDE: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Georg Frideric Handel arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace & John Head

EASTER PROCLAMATION

The congregation is invited stand.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever. Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW 365

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST



Cont. on next page



GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

A reading from the book of Acts:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

'Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 'through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ¬ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁶ Then they remembered his words, ໑ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹o Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Why Do We Seek the Living among the Dead?

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

A brief silence.

God of Resurrection Life, kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Majestic Creator, nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Inspire human beings to care for the planet rather than exploit it. Challenge our greed and indifference toward environmental destruction; and teach us to be good stewards of creation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

God of justice and peace, empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife. Bring just and lasting peace to all lands. Especially we pray for peace in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, and all places experiencing the terror of war. We pray for the end of war and the demilitarization of our nation and our world. Inspire all to make the end of war an international priority, that we may live in a world truly at peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.

God who frees from the tomb, bring new life among all who feel broken by life's circumstances. We pray especially for our siblings without homes or food. Bring comfort to all who grieve the loss of loved ones and grace them with the hope of your resurrection life. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, awaken new life in our lives. Redirect us from seeking life in places of death and turn us to the light of Easter dawn. Help us to grow spiritually in our personal spiritual practice and together as a congregation. Give us eyes to see you in one another and in those in our neighbors in need. Bless the community of St. Matthew and all who visit here. Give us grateful and generous hearts that we are inspired to work in the world and our community. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING

At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at stmatthewavon.org/give, using the QR code in this bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY: Christ Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Sing to the Lord Hosanna! Christ the Lord is risen today, Sing Hosanna!

Let us all unite as one, and sing praise to our Savior; Praise the Lord, Sing with Joy, Sing Hosanna!

Diane C. Lokensgard

Lift your voices loud and clear, Sing Hosanna! Christ the Lord is risen today, Sing to the Lord Hosanna! Christ the Lord is risen today, Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna! Christ is risen today!

Christ Is Risen Today, Diane C. Lokensgard @ 1980, Beckenhorst Press. All rights reserved.

DOXOLOGY

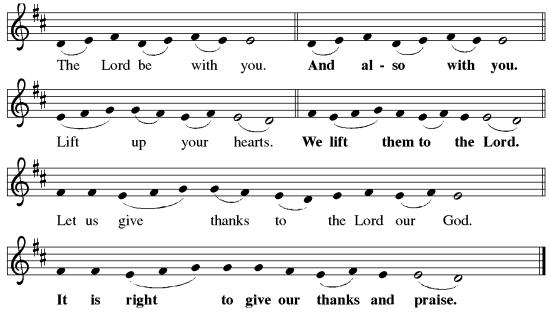
All rise as the gifts are brought forward.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

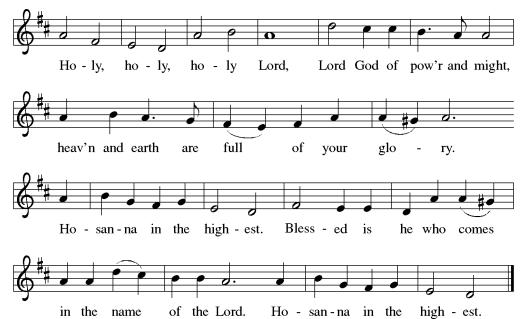
HOLY COMMUNION



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ELW Setting 4



Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

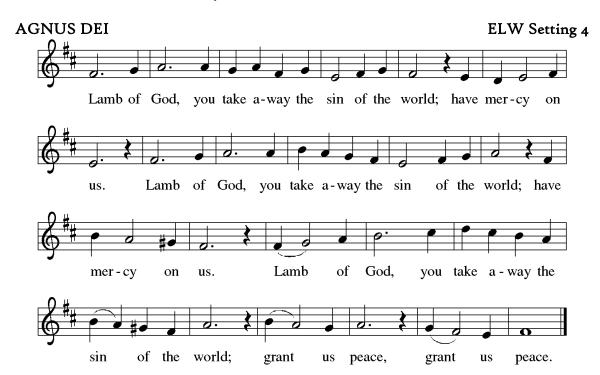
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines in the center aisle. After you receive a communion wafer from the pastor, walk to the side of the altar where you may intinct (dip) the wafer into the red wine or white grape juice. Please do not drink from the chalices.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.



COMMUNION HYMN: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

ELW 362

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, & Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! ELW 382

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace & John Head

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Special thanks to our guest trumpeter, Alex Finn!

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Trumpeter: Alex Finn Ushers: (9:00) Kevin Reichler

Live Stream: Greg Boyd Altar Guild: (9:00) Doreen O'Leary, (11:00) Deb Brodeur

Lector: (9:00) Jane Hanson, (11:00) Roy Zurell

Assisting Minister: (9:00) Rick Hanson, (11:00) Will Abbott

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok - pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Heckman - revryan@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz - music@stmatthewavon.org

Office Administrator: Paul Martin - office@stmatthewavon.org or (860) 673-3301

Sexton: Roy Zurell - contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org YouTube: @StMatthewAvon Facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch Instagram: @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	9:00 am: Easter Worship w/ Holy Communion	11:00 am: Easter Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tuesday	10:00 am: A.A.	12:30 – 2pm Threads of Faith
Wednesday	9:30 am & 5:15 pm: W.W	7pm: O.A.
Thursday	2:00 pm: Centering Prayer	
Sunday	9:00 am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20 - 11:15 am: Intergenerational Mosaic Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: FILM SCREENING AND Q&A WITH ROBERT ABBOTT

Saturday, May 3 @ 7pm in the Hall of the Evangelists

Six-time Emmy award winner and St. Matthew member Robert Abbott will be screening his 2018 film "Port of Destiny: Peace", chronicling former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' path to peace in a polarizing political environment. The documentary will be introduced by Robert and followed up by a Q&A.

There will be a suggested donation of \$10 which will be donated to a peace-seeking organization that is yet to be determined. More details will be distributed in the next few weeks via email and Sunday announcements.

THREADS OF FAITH | Tues., April 22 @ 12:30 pm

Join us Tuesday, April 22 from 12:30-2:00pm for our next Threads of Faith ministry. Everyone is welcome, regardless of sewing skills. This month we'll learn some basic hand stitches and continue with our quilt project by learning how to measure and cut batting and fabric to make a "quilt sandwich." Questions? Reach out to Rev. Ryan at revryan@stmatthewavon.org or Stacey at mkcheart@gamil.com.

JOIN OUR PROPERTY TEAM!

Property Committee will be meeting Wednesday April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming property spring cleanup day Saturday May 10th. Property Committee meets twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. Contact Ben Wright or Pastor Brian with any questions.

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT WITH MOSAIC

Sunday, April 27: Following Worship

Becca Piel, Community Relations Manager at MOSAIC, will be joining us for worship along with several residents from MOSAIC group homes on Sunday April 27th. MOSAIC is a local faith-based nonprofit that serves people with disabilities, mental and behavioral health needs and people with autism. There are several MOSAIC group homes that neighbor our church, and we are excited to welcome these members of our wider community to St Matthew!

Becca will be preaching during worship and then she will lead an Intergenerational Event where we'll learn more about MOSAIC's programs while participating in a craft project. The craft has been specifically chosen to ensure all ages and abilities can participate and bring something beautiful home! The whole congregation is invited including adults, confirmation and Sunday school. We hope to see you all there to help welcome our guests from MOSAIC!

USHER TRAINING & PIZZA PARTY

Please consider joining St. Matthew's usher training event on Wednesday May 14th at 6:30 p.m. We'll start with pizza together at 6:30 and at 7:00 will cover the duties and practices of being an usher. We hope to designate several usher teams, with several members on each team, to serve once per month. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office if you plan to attend. Contact Kevin Reichler or Pastor Brian with any questions.

MUSIC AT GREENWOOD | SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 17th @ 4:00 pm

Virtuoso violinist Elliott Davis will perform five of Eugene Ysayë's Sonatas for Solo Violin in the second concert of our 2025 season. After the performance, stay for a reception of light appetizers. An offering will be received at the door (suggested donation: \$10). All are invited!

FOODSHARE WALK: Saturday April 26th

Connecticut Foodshare is hosting their annual Walk Against Hunger on Saturday April 26th. You are invited to walk and/or donate to support a walker. See St. Matthew's weekly Constant Contact email blast for links to support the event.

ONLINE GIVING

Make a one-time gift, or set-up recurring donations, via Vanco! You may use the QR code below to access the website, or visit: stmatthewavon.org/online-giving

We ask those that wish to set-up recurring donations, please select the "GENERAL OPERATING FUND" and choose withdrawals to take place on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Thank you! If you have any difficulty, please contact the church office or see one of the Pastors after service!





Doreen O'Leary in honor of loved ones.
Sue Young in memory of Vaughn & David.
John & Kristine Pearson in honor of loved ones.
George & Carol Reider in memory of loved ones.
Robin & Jack Pietrick in memory of loved ones.

Mj & John Sandell in honor of family. Sharon Yanke in memory of Arthur Yanke & Karl Goritz.

George Spoering in honor of loved ones.

Jean Tuve in honor of loved ones.

Bob Hoffman for the glory of God.

Prasad & Indira Panthagani in honor of loved ones.

Donna Urbinati for baby Charlotte & mom Lauren.

Larry & Bev Annello in honor of Tom Maher.

Rebecca Kessler in memory of Bob Wills.

Erika Bentley in honor of mother Cheryl.

Kathy Alsgaard in memory of Tom.

Ellen & Charlie Ericson in memory of loved ones.

Kathy & Gary Kurtich in memory of loved ones.

Robin Lindquist in memory of David Lindquist.

Ron Howard in memory of Mabel.

Fred Krompegal in memory of Shirley, Fred, and Richard Krompegal Kevin Reichler in honor of loved ones.

Ernest Jaschinski Jr. and Eleanor Doyle in memory of parents Ernest & Martha Jaschinski, sister Pauline, and her husband Bob Poetzsch.

The Ware family in memory of loved ones.

