



# St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

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**Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real**

October 5, 2025  
10:30 a.m.

**Welcome!** Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or any needs, please let a name-tagged usher know. We hope that you experience God's love during worship today.



**Our Purpose:**

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

**Our Goals:**

**Enliven** faith through worship and learning

**Cultivate** shared leadership as disciples of Jesus

**Engage** children, youth, and families

**Bridge the gaps** with home-insecure neighbors

**Build** authentic relationships across differences

**About today:** We gather as a community to worship God by singing, praying, listening to scripture, hearing a message and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The scripture readings are chosen through the Narrative Lectionary which follows the biblical story from beginning to the end. It was initiated by Lutheran professors in partnership with congregations who recognized the importance understanding the Bible's message as the source of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). You can find our livestream on our website or on Youtube (links can be found on the last page of the bulletin).

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:30 a.m., October 5, 2025**

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**PRELUDE**


*I Love to Tell the Story*  
Deb Smith

**Raney**

**WELCOME**

*Please remain seated.*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity , one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.  
*A moment of silence for reflection.*

Most Merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*During the singing of the hymn, Children second grade and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in a kid-friendly format with additional activities to explore their faith. They will return during the Musical Offering.*

**HYMN**

***All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly***

**ELW#461  
Dunstan/Moore**

**(Next Page)**



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## GREETING

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

**All: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God of grace, You open your hand and fill us with all good things. Relieve us from our fears of scarcity, that we might trust in your provision for us, and share generously out of what you have given, that all the world might flourish. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:47-51

<sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

### NARRATIVE READING: Exodus 16:1-18

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of

Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" <sup>8</sup> And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.' " <sup>10</sup> And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

<sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. <sup>18</sup> But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt**

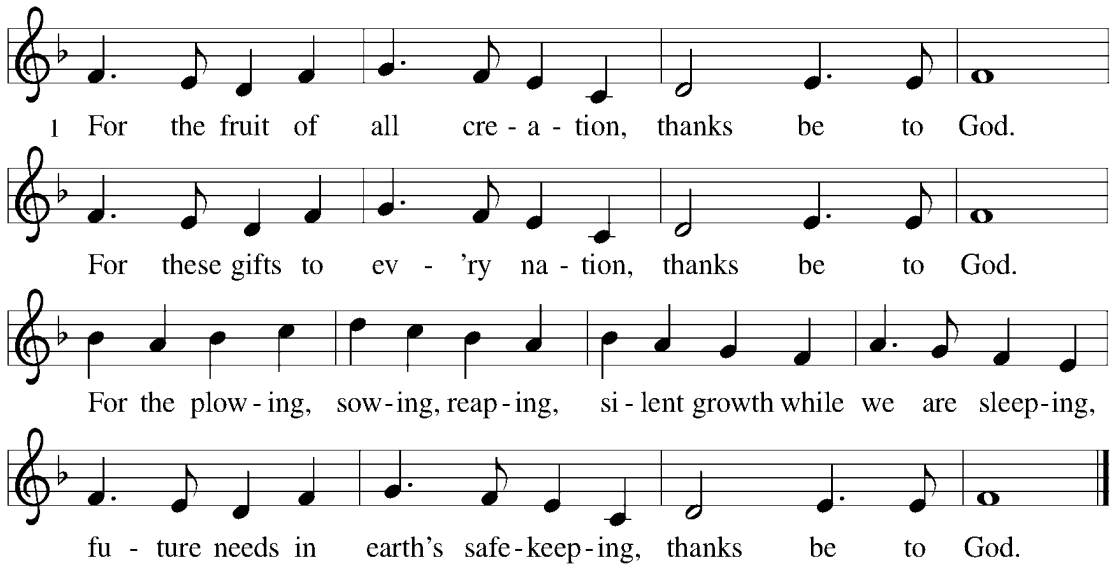
*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation vs. 1*

ELW#679

Green/Welsh Traditional



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

## CREED

Leader: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**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.**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS**

Pastor: Each petition concludes, *“God of Promise,”* and the congregation responds, *“Hear our prayer.”*

## **PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

***Meditation from Thais***  
**Dan Carson, Violin**

**Marsick**

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*In response to God’s generosity we offer our selves, our time and our financial support as signs of God’s gracious love. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. See the QR code on the back of the bulletin. You may also text-to-give at 717-613-6204. **Thank you for offering your gifts that support the ministries of our congregation in this community and throughout the world.***

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

## Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW#674

Kaan/Potter



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**All:** Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts,  
our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what  
we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our  
savior and Lord. Amen.

## ✠ THE MEAL ✠

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them to the Lord.

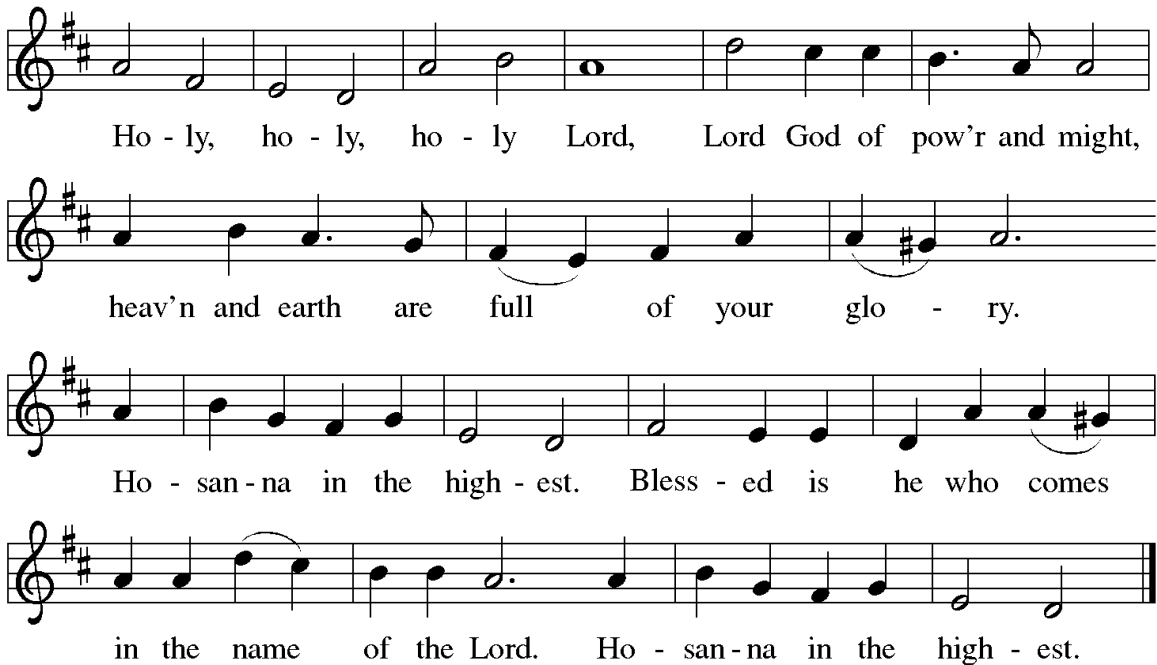
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**All: 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

*Please be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

***All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.***

***Individual packets*** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

***If you are unable to come forward***, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

***Continuous manner*** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it.

***Children who do not yet receive communion*** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

## IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Eat wafer*)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Drink wine/grape juice*)

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HYMN

### *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

**ELW#494**

**Benson/Rockstro**



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy,  
strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in  
fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **✠ SENDING ✠**

## **BLESSING**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

## **HYMN**

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

**ELW#545  
Fawcett**

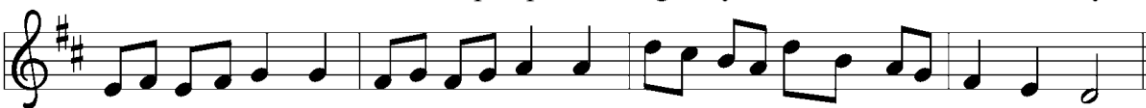
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1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

## DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians ..... Dan Carson, Deb Smith  
Altar Flower Delivery ..... Tina Schaffner  
Altar Guild ..... Doris Deitzel, Bonnie Williams  
Assisting Minister..... Hailey  
Children's Church Leader..... Missy Smith  
Communion Assistants ..... Sue & Phil Covert

Communion Preparers..... Debby Seibert, Barbara Strangfeld  
 Couriers ..... Sue Covert  
 Greeters ..... Sara & Meredith Staub  
 Lector ..... Randy Luckenbaugh  
 Live Stream ..... Doug West  
 Ushers ..... Team 1: Tom Shultz, Bob & Kit Curlen, Sean Huston,  
 ..... John Mancini, Linda Wheeler  
 Welcome Place ..... Doris Deitzel

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Smoke Sanders by his loving wife Kim, children Bri, Rafe, Ryan, Katelyn and Becca and grandchildren Raelynn, Reece, Reid and Hallie; in loving memory of Burnell (Reds) Weaver on his birthday on October 5 by his daughter Tina Schaffner and grandchildren Lisa and Eric Gallagher and their families.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God.

**PRAYER LIST:** In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

<b>Charles Ehrman</b>	Dan Markle	Anna Dougherty
<b>Lea Eyler</b>	Carolyn Markle	Nancy Leister
Bev Stevens	Kathy Miller	Lucas Cherry
Eva Hobbs		



## ***SIGN-UP FORM***

Please fill out the pertinent part(s) for you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or email the church office at *info@stmattlutheran.org*, listing what you are signing up for and the information requested. See Announcements Page for more details.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to receive \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail updates and/or \_\_\_\_\_ newsletter in the mail. (Provide name, e-mail, and/or mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of St. Matthew and below is updated contact information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address





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Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229  
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Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext 225  
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Deb Smith, Interim Minister of Music, ext 236  
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Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230  
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Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232  
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Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator, ext 222  
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