

# ST. MATTHEW



**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**

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## DIVINE SERVICE SETTING IV    P. 203-212

**ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST-** Our ascended Lord gives “gifts” to His Church. In particular, He gave apostles and evangelists like St. Matthew, prophets like Ezekiel, and still gives pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:8, 11). All are “for the common good ... empowered by one and the same Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:7, 11). They speak Christ’s “truth in love” to wind- and wave-tossed children so that the saints may be equipped, served and built up as the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:12-15). Christ is not only the head of this body, He is her Good Physician (Matt. 9:9-13). He has come not for the well but for the sick, not for “the righteous, but sinners” (Matt. 9:13) — even notorious tax collectors like Matthew. Christ’s team of spiritual physicians must serve faithfully. Their instrument is “thus says the Lord GOD,” to be spoken “whether they hear or refuse to hear” (Ezek. 3:11). To those stubborn, rebellious patients who believe they need no physician, the word “of lamentation and mourning and woe” must be fearlessly spoken: God’s Law calls to repentance (Ezek. 2:10). To those who recognize their trouble and sickness, the salve of the Gospel is to be applied. So Christ works to save us, as Matthew’s Gospel records.

**OPENING HYMN            “TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US”            915**

**RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM 10:30 A.M. (PG. 268-271 IN LSB)**

**BAPTISM: LILAH MAE BEBEAU**

**DAUGHTER OF JAKE AND ELIZABETH BEBEAU**

**(SERVICE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE COLLECT)**

**✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠**

**P. 203**

**✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠**

**INTROIT                    PSALM 92:1-5; ANTIPHON: MATTHEW 9:13B,C**

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord,**

**to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

**to the music of the lute and the harp,**

**to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

**KYRIE, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**P. 204**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**EZEKIEL 2:8-3:11**

<sup>8</sup>“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup>And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe. <sup>11</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>12</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. <sup>13</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. <sup>14</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>15</sup>For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>16</sup>not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>17</sup>But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you,

for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup>Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup>And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

PSALM 119:105, 103; 45:1A,C

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.**

EPISTLE

EPHESIANS 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” <sup>9</sup>(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL****MATTHEW 9:9-13**

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. <sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLE'S CREED****P. 207****HYMN OF THE DAY****"WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME"****730****SERMON****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**G** **Hear our Prayer.**

**In Our Prayers:**

+ Pam Barlau	+ Dan Gueningsman
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Chad Feltmann
+ Maxine Almquist	+ Darian Litzau
+ Lilah Mae Bebeau	+ Trevor Schauer
+ Family and Friends of Rodney Kuntz	

**OFFERING****✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210**

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any

refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Examination Questions:** Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES”	602
“THE LAW OF GOD IS GOOD AND WISE”	579
“JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE”	609
“O JESUS, BLESSED LORD, TO THEE”	632
NUNC DIMITTIS	P. 211
BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION	P. 212
CLOSING HYMN “BY ALL YOUR SAINTS IN WARFARE” vs. 1,25,3	518
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	

<p><b><u>Attendance Last Week</u></b> Sunday: 180 Bible Study: 27 Sunday School: 36</p>
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<p><b><u>Organist:</u></b> Lynn Mueller <b><u>Scripture Reader:</u></b> Darlene Schmidt</p>
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#### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Lilah Mae Bebeau, daughter of Jake and Elizabeth Bebeau, who will be baptized during the 10:30 am service today. Sponsors are Jake Fenske and Mikayla Olson.

2. **DARTBALL-** Anyone interested in playing Dartball this year is invited to attend a team practice TODAY Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome! Game schedule TBD.

**3. LWML** - LWML will continue to collect school items. Most in need of light weight backpacks. Pick up the list on the table in the Narthex for other items. Thank you.

**4. ACT:** All high school students are welcome to come to Big Stone Mini Golf on Sunday, September 28. Big Stone has mini golf, a sculpture garden, yard games, and a few animals grazing. There will be a cost of \$5, so please bring cash. We will leave from church at 3:00. Email Ellie, text her at 712-299-4656, or sign up on the youth bulletin board if you want to come!

**5. POSTER CONTEST-** The 1st-6th grade students participated in a poster contest providing information about the need for clean water for all God's children. You can vote for the winner with your pocket change! On September 28th and October 5th, check out the poster display in the education wing, and place your change (or cash) in the container next to your favorite poster. All donations received will support World Vision.

**6. CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE SCHEDULING:** A new photo date of Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> has been added for you to schedule an appointment to be included in the new church directory. Go to the Universal website, [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on the box that says "**photography appointment scheduling login**", enter **MN592** in the church code field and enter the word **photos** (in lowercase letters) in the church password field. Or you can access the website using the QR code on the back page and follow the same steps on your phone. If you need further assistance, we will have a sign-up table before and after each Sunday morning church service. Remember, this is a terrific opportunity for a **FREE** professional portrait.

**7. LWML PICTURE-** TWO opportunities to be in a picture for the new directory: (we will submit 2) Immediately after first service on LWML Sunday, October 5th or at the monthly gathering at Grand Meadows in September. So, please plan to be at one of these to be in our picture of our members!

**8. HELP NEEDED-**The crew that runs the cameras for the livestream of our services needs your help! If you feel comfortable using a computer for easy tasks, you have skills that the Lord can use! Please consider serving our congregation by joining our group of servants. We will train you, and you don't work alone. Very flexible scheduling. Contact Jane Holasek or Ellie Schulteis if you want to find out more!

**9. THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY** for Season 5 will be on Thursday evenings, starting on October 2nd at 7 p.m. in the education wing. We have DVDs from the previous seasons, if you want to catch-up and join us!

**10. 2025 Fall Session Music Classes** will be on ALL THURSDAYS in October - 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the education wing music room. Please join us for some music-making fun, and invite a family from the area to join us too! Babies through age 5 are welcome!!

**11. SCHEDULE- September 28:** Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- Keith Christen, Dave Dressler, Kim Dressler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Scott Christenson, Larry Clausen, Shadd Dial, Calvin Dial; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- E. Dial, Jake Schauer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: K. Schauer, M. Schauer; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Carolyn Toenies; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Jason & Mandy Lyons; Scripture Reader: Jen Thiry; Flowers: Patsy Schauer; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

### *Calendar of Events*

<b>Sun. Sept. 21</b>	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sun. School/Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Dartball meeting/practice
<b>Mon. Sept. 22</b>	6:30 p.m.	Release Time Classes Photo Directory Training
<b>Wed. Sept. 24</b>	Noon 3:05 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Release Time 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
<b>Thur. Sept. 25</b>		Release Time Classes
<b>Sun. Sept. 28</b>	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP W/CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sun. School/Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM.</b> ACT Big Stone Mini Golfing



QR Code to schedule Directory Session