

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 21 and 22, 2025



St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin
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Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today’s Focus for Worship – St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

For many centuries the Christian Church has celebrated the ministry of St. Matthew on September 21. Matthew, also called Levi, was a tax collector. Jesus called Matthew to leave behind his financial occupation and to follow him (Gospel). God, who is rich in mercy, used Matthew's ministry and Gospel to show the world the incomparable riches of his grace (Eph 2). Matthew teaches us to turn our hearts away from selfish gain and to follow Christ with unyielding commitment (Ps 119; Ezek 2-3). So today we remember the ministry of Matthew and seek to imitate his faithfulness to Jesus as we thank God for St. Matthew, the apostle and the evangelist.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Allison Sorensen

Choir Director: Neil Hankwitz

Choir Accompanist: Tracy Hankwitz

Soloist (Monday): Sam Fay

Acknowledgments

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The Service

Setting Five



Opening Hymn

Christ Is Our Cornerstone | 914
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

The congregation is invited to sing the Gloria in Excelsis with the choir/soloist, as you feel comfortable, especially on the refrains, which are outlined below.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al -

might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior, called a despised collector of taxes to become his apostle. Help us, like Matthew, to forsake all covetous desires and love of riches and so follow our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

⁸But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

⁹Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, ¹⁰which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

¹And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. ⁵You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you. ⁷But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. ⁸But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. ⁹I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people.”

¹⁰And he said to me, “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. ¹¹Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

In place of the Psalm, the choir/soloist will sing the Sanctus. The congregation is then invited to repeat the Sanctus with the choir.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est! Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

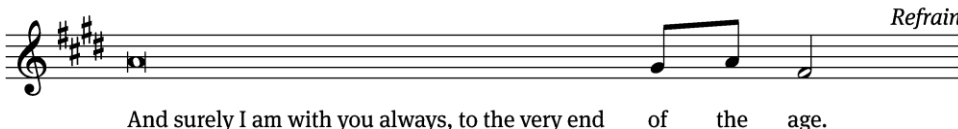
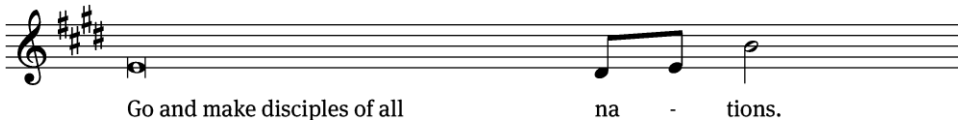
The congregation is invited to join with the choir/soloist in singing the Gospel Acclamation.



Refrain



Tone



⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

The Potter's Hand *by Darlene Zschech*

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days
are held in your hand, crafted into your perfect plan.
You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit.
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes.

I'm captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart,
I know you're drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray.
Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.

You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit.
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes.
I'm captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart,
I know you're drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray.

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.

Sermon

Matthew 9:9-13

Follow Jesus by Following Matthew

Stand

Apostles' Creed *Credo*

Matthew 16:15; Luke 12:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated



Prayer of the Church

Psalm 119:37

Almighty God, you instruct your holy church with the teaching of your apostles and evangelists. Establish us in the truth of your holy gospel, that we may have a solid faith in Christ, the fulfillment of all your promises.

Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your Word.

Your Son once called tax collectors and sinners to follow him. With your gospel, move our hearts to reach out to those who do not know you, that they may turn, believe in you, and receive eternal life.

Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your Word.

Bless all who encourage us with your Word; pastors, teachers and Christian friends. Let their joy in your love overflow, that they may guide, uplift, and strengthen their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your Word.

Just as you have called and welcomed us into your family for the sake of Christ, teach us to reflect your mercy, that we welcome the lowly and despised, and show them your grace.

Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your Word.

With your gospel promise, create us anew in Christ Jesus, that we may be ready to leave the world behind, and do the work you have prepared in advance for us to do.

Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your Word.

Lord God, heavenly Father, through your precious Word you have called us into your kingdom, and have given us forgiveness of sins, grace, and mercy. By your Holy Spirit awaken and enlighten us, that like Matthew the tax collector we may turn from sin, follow your call, and share your grace with others; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

Hymn

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve | 716

Stand

Closing Collect

Holy Lord, you call your servants to faith, and then you call your servants to service. Cleanse and open our lips that we may declare your praise to the ends of the earth; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

By All Your Saints Still Striving | 892:1, 24, 3

Symbols of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, can be traced as far back as the 3rd century and were in widespread use by the 5th and 6th centuries.

The most frequently used symbols are that of four creatures: a winged man, winged lion, winged ox, and eagle. The basis for these symbols comes from the winged creatures mentioned in Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. They are almost always shown with merely their head and wings. A nimbus around their head is also used in nearly every instance, both ancient and modern.

Since medieval times, Christianity has ordered the symbols like this: Matthew, the winged man; Mark, the winged lion; Luke, the winged ox; John, the eagle. The typical explanation of these symbols is this: Matthew is the winged man because he begins by tracing the human lineage of Christ. Mark is the winged lion because he opens his Gospel with the voice crying in the wilderness, John the Baptist. Luke is the winged ox because of his detailed account of the sacrificial death of our Lord. John is the eagle because, from John 1 to the end of Revelation, he carries us on eagle's wings to the throne of heaven.



When shown as an apostle, rather than one of the four evangelists, St. Matthew's symbol shows three money bags, referring to his original calling as a tax collector.

