

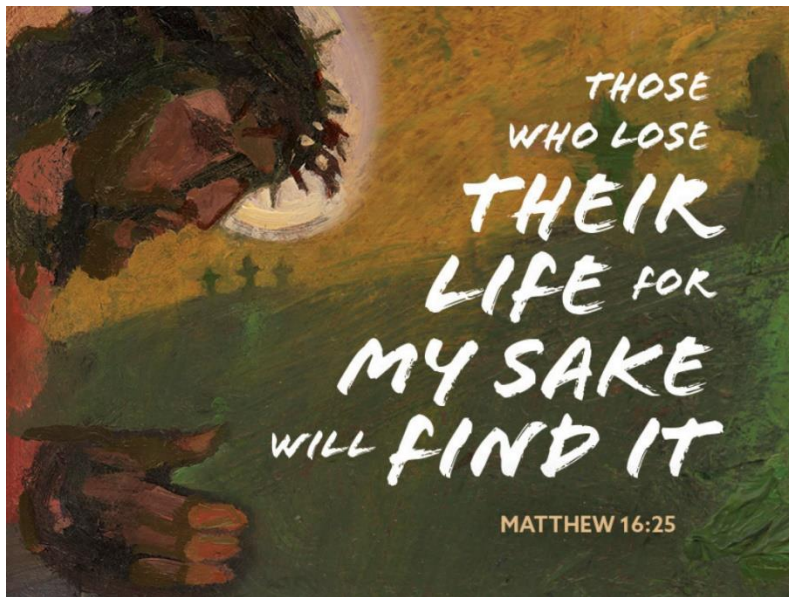


WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Today Is August 30, 2026

+ + +

14th Sunday after Pentecost



ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: 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 the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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 neighbors 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

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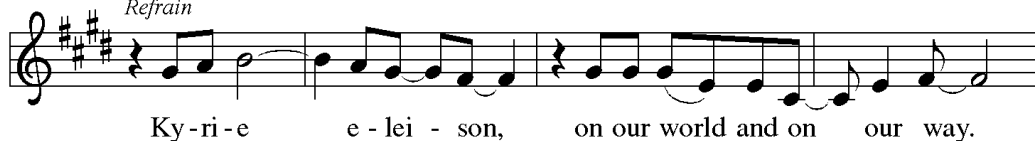
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE – sung in unison

Refrain



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name,

O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: We pray the psalm responsively.

Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me;

examine my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless,

nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,

that I may go in procession round your altar,

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house in which you dwell

and the place where your glory abides. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

L: A reading from Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

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THE APOSTLES’ CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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 OF INTERCESSION

The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)

L: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

Come Follow Me Forever
Choir

Legergen

The assembly stands.

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our
 hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
 give to you, we give to you.
 We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

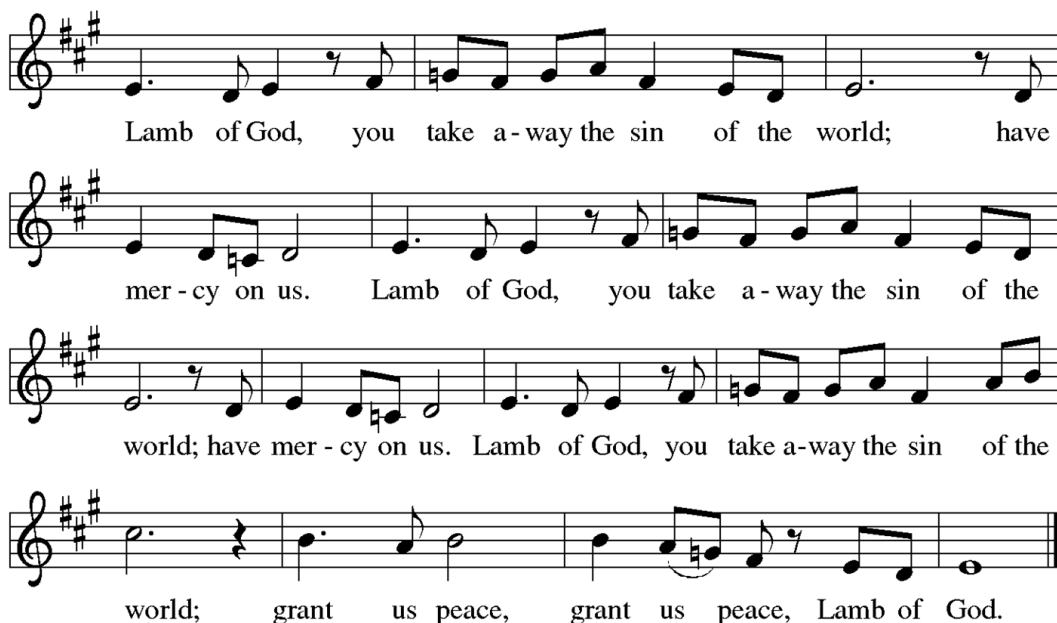
P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

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, Lamb of God.

All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMNS

***Bind Us Together
The Peace of the Lord***

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The assembly stands.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

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DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross, ELW 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Will You Come and Follow Me, ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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Bind Us Together, W&P 18

Chorus:

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
 can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
 bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

Verse 1:
 1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.

Verse 2:
 2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

Refrain:
 There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing;
 You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

The Peace of the Lord, ELW 646



1 La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti y_a mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti y_a
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

2 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla;
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla.*

3 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla;
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla.*

Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
 Music: LA PAZ DEL SEÑOR, Anders Ruuth
 Spanish text and tune © Anders Ruuth, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © Lutheran World Federation.

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On Our Way Rejoicing, ELW 537



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY ~

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

The Eternal Candle for the month of August
is sponsored by Gaye & Deron DeCesare.
In loving memory of Joe DeCesare

*Give online to St. Matthew's—your offerings support the mission of the church
and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community
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Lector: Caroline Leean

Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Mike Mazzucchi, Tom Meier

Ushers: Dave Carr, Mark Victorson

Altar Guild: Barb Carr, Joyce McFarland, Jennifer Rice

Coming up at St. Matthew's:

- St. Matthew's Rally Day takes place on September 13, 2026 – Rally Day includes the first day of Sunday School, Blessing of the Backpacks, and a parish picnic featuring a dessert auction to benefit Rise Against Hunger.
- Mark your calendar for our annual Lobster Bake which will be held on Saturday, September 26th.
- Enroll your child in St. Matthew's Youth Choir! Children will learn basic music reading skills, work on singing skills, enjoy musical games, and pray, sing, dance and rejoice together. Open to children in kindergarten through 8th grade. Rehearsals begin Monday, September 14, 2026.

For more upcoming events and announcements, please visit www.stmatthewsva.org

Scan the QR code below to access the St. Matthew's calendar.

