HOLY COMMUNION

St. Matthew

September 21, 2025

8:00 am and 10:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Tax collectors were agents of the oppressive empire, and they also had a reputation for extorting more than they had to collect. Jesus' calling Matthew to follow him showed that Jesus not only associated with "bad guys," he welcomed them into his inner circle. His sharing a meal with Matthew and other tax collectors and "sinners" was an enacted parable of the mercy of God. The meal we share at Jesus' table is to be such a parable too.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: "Prelude in G Major, Op. 37, No. 2" Felix Mendelssohn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak Printed on the next page.

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the **→** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- 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.
- **G** Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

- P Most merciful God,
- 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.
- 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.
- **G** Amen.

Stand

GREETING

- P 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.**



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised collector of taxes to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

Later service only:

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 2:8–3:11

Following the call of the prophet to speak the word of God, this passage relates in vivid imagery the need to consume the word until it is fully assimilated by the prophet.

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁸ "You, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." ⁹ I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. ¹⁰ He spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

^{3:1} He said to me, "O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

⁴ He said to me, "Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. ⁵ For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language but to the house of Israel, ⁶ not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. ⁷ 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. ⁸ See, I have made your face hard against their faces and your forehead hard against their foreheads. ⁹ Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." ¹⁰ He said to me, "Mortal, all my words that I shall

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speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; ¹¹ then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GoD,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 119:33-40 (The congregation's verses are in bold face type.)

- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes, and I shall keep it | to the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your law; I shall keep it with | all my heart.
- ³⁵ Make me go in the path of | your commandments, for that is | my desire.
- ³⁶ Incline my heart to | your decrees and not to | unjust gain.
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from watching | what is worthless; give me life | in your ways.
- ³⁸ Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which you make to | those who fear you.
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach | which I dread, because your judg- | ments are good.
- ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for | your commandments; in your righteousness pre-| serve my life.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:4-10

The author of this letter is eager to show God's love for sinners. God reaches into the deathly snare of sin and death in order to draw us out into life with Christ. This act is nothing less than the gift of God's mercy.

A A reading from Ephesians.

⁴ God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

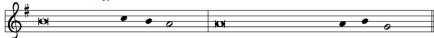
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation.



The choir sings the Verse.



You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea | and Samaria, and to the ends | of the earth.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.



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GOSPEL Matthew 9:9-13

Regarded as a traitor to his people and an oppressor of the poor, this tax collector follows Jesus and then offers him hospitality. In the sharing of a meal Jesus reveals his mission: to serve God's mercy.

- P The holy gospel according to Matthew.
- **G** Glory to you, O Lord.
- ⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.
- ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."
- **P** The gospel of the Lord.
- **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

AT THE SERMON: REPORT ON MISSION TRIP

Stand

Later service only:

HYMN OF THE DAY: By All Your Saints in Warfare Printed on the next page.

By All Your Saints in Warfare

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist



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Stand

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

NICENE CREED

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

- With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say **Peace be with you** or similar words.

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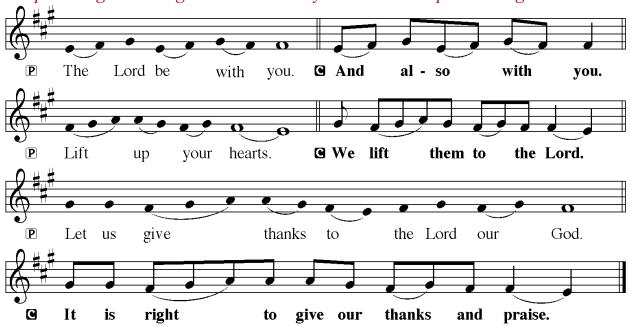
LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

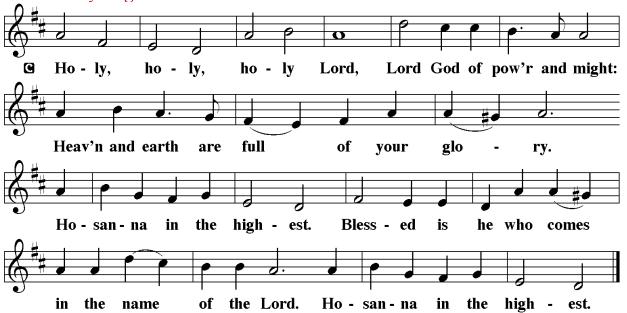
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly sings the SANCTUS:



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The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

C

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- 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,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

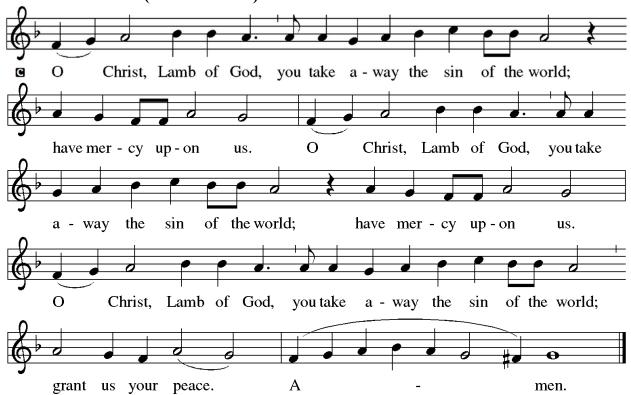
and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

Music during Communion:

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



Later service only:

COMMUNION ANTHEM: "Give thanks for those whose faith is firm"

C. Hubert H. Parry

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Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak: on God's good promise they rely, so while they live and when they die how forcefully they speak – the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight: who seek the city God has planned, the true, eternal promised land, and steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone: they show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true, for God's concerns they own – God's love through them is known.

Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today: though often by this world despised, their hearts by God are richly prized. Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY:

"These Are the Holy Ten Commandments" BWV 679

J. S. Bach

These are the holy ten commands,
Which came to us from God's own hands,
By Moses, who obeyed His will,
On the top of Sinai's hill. Kyrioleis.

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- **G** Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

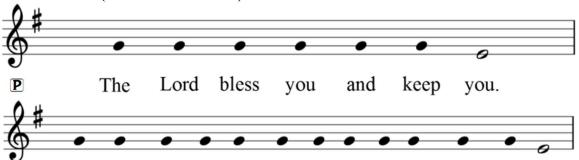
Let us pray.

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.

G Amen.

SENDING

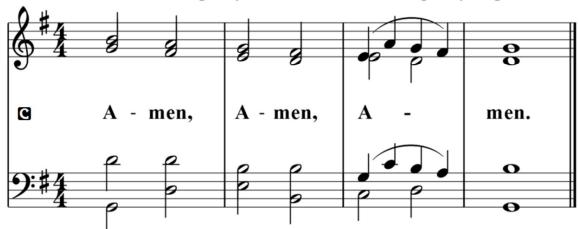
BLESSING (BENEDICTION)



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: I Love to Tell the Story

Printed on pages 20 and 21.

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I Love to Tell the Story



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OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: "Fantasy: Torah Song"

Craig Phillips

Open your ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's Word.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.

They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear.

They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's Word.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

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The Time of the Church is the season after Pentecost, beginning with The Holy Trinity and ending with Christ the King. These weeks focus on Christ's ministry and teaching.

The liturgical color red is symbolic of both the fire of the Holy Spirit (used on The Day of Pentecost) and the blood of the martyrs (used on Reformation Day and commemorations of saints who died for the faith).



2025 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonhfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	Selison87@gmail.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew_vera@verizon.net

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Worship Assistants

Ushers: Dick Allebach, Scott Halteman, Bryan Fishell, and Frank DePaul

Lectors: Lessons: Karl Stefan and Debra Augustine

Prayers: Rebecca Catagnus

Communion Assistant: Earl Catagnus

Altar Guild: Debra Augustine, Sally Sweeney, Deb Scholl, and Linda Romano

Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner, Matthew Vera, and Karl Stefan

Video Streaming: Jim Lien, Chilly Lyaro, and Shane Elison

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of mother, Anne Lachenmayer in honor of her September 25th birthday.

<u>The Choir Music</u> today is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gail Martin by her family and friends.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of mother, Anne Lachenmayer in honor of her September 25th birthday.

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by the Reverends Howard and Martha Kriebel in thanks for the Music Program at Augustus.



2025 Augustus Lutheran Church Directory

(first since 2009)

Dates: November 10th and 11th, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Sign Up: Beginning September 14th, after each service

If you are unable to sign up in person, please contact
Tracy Wessner (484-955-8059 / Tracyrinslandwessner@gmail.com)

Or

Linda Romano (215-498-5600 / Linda.L.Romano@gmail.com)



Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church
 - If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!
 You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.



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<u>90th Birthday Celebration</u>: Dorothy Rieger, a longtime member of Augustus Lutheran Church and a very active member of Augustus' Women of the ELCA, will be turning 90 years young on October 21. Among her many talents that she contributed to Augustus' culture, her legacy consists of being the first co-chair of our Annual Turkey Dinner when this event started 29 years ago!!! Although she has since moved away to Florida, she still is a member of Augustus. Let's help her celebrate this milestone birthday by showering her with cards & photos to show her that we still remember and appreciate her in a way that only Augustus can provide. Her daughter Sharon is asking that all cards and photos be sent to Sharon so that she can bundle & present them all together. Sharon Rieger Winterton's address is as follows:

Dorothy Rieger c/o Sharon Rieger Winterton 2051 Warwick Drive Oldsmar, Florida 34677

We hope that you will prayerfully consider sending her thoughtful birthday wishes for this monumental achievement on behalf of the Augustus Family.

Girls' Night Out

Please join us on Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30 pm to see Harvey at Ursinus College. Purchase your ticket online (general admission \$9.16, seniors \$5.49) and then let Deb Scholl know by Sept. 28th that you are coming (schollde@aol.com). Those who are interested will also meet for dinner before the show (details tbd). Sponsored by WELCA and open to all.

For more info about Harvey:

https://www.collegevilledevelopment.org/dinner-show-theater-harvey/ To purchase your ticket:

https://www.ticketleap.events/events/ursinus













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