



Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

www.smelcnewmilford.org



Sunday of the Fulfillment

Last Sunday of the Church Year

A Vision of Life

Sunday, November 20, 2011

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

A New Jersey District
congregation of the Lutheran
Church -
Missouri Synod

225 Center Street
New Milford, NJ 07646

www.smelcnewmilford.org

stmatthewsnj@gmail.com
(201) 262-5092

Pastor Anthony J. Iovine

Phone: (201) 338-0049
ajiovine@gmail.com

Twitter: reviovine

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ajiovine

Blog: www.reviovine.com

The Pastor's Blog:
www.stmatthewsnj.org/blog



Lee Bigbee
Voters Body President

Edwin Geiger
**Voters' Body Vice-
President**

Deborah Bigbee
Scott Helming
Robert Hille
Channing Wilson
Board of Elders

Warren Born
Minister of Music

Christina Rottinger
Secretary
Approx. hours
Tues., Weds.,
THURS 9am-3pm

As We Gather This Sunday

A Vision of Life

"O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy living finger never wrote That life should be an aimless mote, A death-ward drift from futile birth. Thy word meant life triumphant hurled In splendor through Thy broken world. Since light awoke and life began, Thou hast desired Thy life for man." Martin Franzmann, 1907-76

God is the giver of life, health, and salvation. His vision of life is one of divine service---the total emptying of Himself up for us in time and eternity. In our daily living and worship we receive God's divine gifts, and respond in gratitude and praise. Today we hear and receive God's Word first, only then responding in prayer and praise. We rend our hearts in confession as we prepare to receive the Lord's forgiveness, life, and salvation under bread and wine. This feast of forgiveness is God's vision for life.



Saint Matthew's Mission Statement

We are a congregation of Christians who worship, pray, hear the Word of God, receive the sacraments, give thanks, grow through Christian education, serve others, and witness to God's love because God has commanded it and we believe this. We attempt to follow this commandment at all times and in all aspects of our lives, especially in church where the fellowship of believers is reinforced. We rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds in our daily relationships; and to lead us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our Worship Service This Week: Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service

Words of Welcome

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, www.smelcnewmilford.org and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs," arr. Jan Bender

↑ Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Almighty King," Lutheran Worship hymnal, #169

Come, O almighty King, Help us your name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all glorious, In all victorious, Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, O incarnate Word, Gird on your mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and your people bless, And give your Word success, And let your righteousness
On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, Your sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Your sev'nfold gifts impart; Rule now in ev'ry heart; Never from us impart
Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Your sov'reign majesty May we in glory see And to eternity
Love and adore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716-96

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Lord God, we confess that in many ways we have refused Your invitation of
mercy and love.
C: **Forgive our neglect.**

L: We have desired the things of this world that cannot satisfy or save.

C: **Help our lack of faith.**

L: We have neglected our neighbors in their need, even those closest to us.

C: **Fill us with Your love.**

L: Hear our penitent cry.

C: **For Jesus' sake, give us Your salvation.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, secured by the resurrection of Christ, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20), and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all whom the Lord God gathers like a shepherd seeks out His flock (Ezekiel 34:12a), let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, confident that they shall enter the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34b), let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

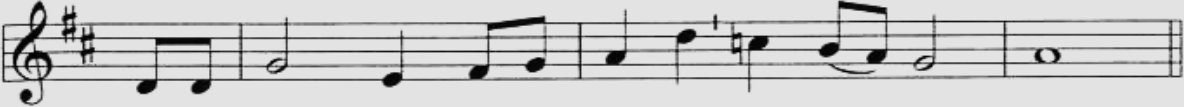
C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast


Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

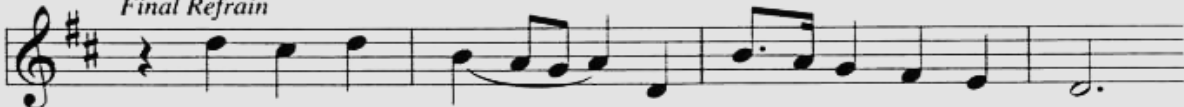


1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead.

C: **Strengthen us in good courage to wait for the day of His return. Fix our eyes on Jesus that we may be mightily prepared to receive the kingdom of God.**

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

↓ Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

(God promises to shepherd His people directly.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the the Sunday of the Fulfillment is taken from Ezekiel, Chapter 34:

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice...

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 95:1-7a (refrain: v.7a)
(Let us sing songs of praise.)

Refrain

P: He is our God,
C: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Psalm

P: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
C: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
C: let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

P: For the Lord is a great God,
C: and a great King above all gods.

P: In His hand are the depths of the earth;
C: the heights of the mountains are His also.

P: The sea is His, for He made it,
C: and His hands formed the dry land.

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
C: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

P: For He is our God,
C: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

**A: 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.**

Refrain

P: He is our God,
C: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-28
(Christ's resurrection assures our own.)

L: God's eternal vision of life for us stops at nothing, not even death. Because of Christ being raised from the dead, so also our lives shall continue through a resurrection like His. A reading from First Corinthians.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of

the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **Alleluia and Verse**

Revelation 22:13

P Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,

C: **the beginning and the end. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

(Jesus teaches His vision of daily life for His followers.)

P: In His grace God has given us the gift of faith so that His vision of life for us becomes evident as we care for the people around us until, on the Last Day, faith gives way to sight. The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

(Jesus said) “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then

they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

↓ **Hymn of the Day**

“O God of Mercy, God of Might,” Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #397

O God of mercy, God of light, In love and mercy infinite,
Teach us, as ever in your sight, To live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all That our lost world might hear your call;
Oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught; To feel for those his blood has bought,
That ev’ry deed and word and thought May work a work for you.

For all are kindred, far and wide, Since Jesus Christ for all has died;
Grant us the will and grace provide To love them all in you.

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, Each other’s burdens help us share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as though to you.

And may your Holy Spirit move All those who live to live in love
Till you receive in heav’n above Those who have lived to you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823=1903, alt.
Tune: Joseph Barnby 1838-96, adapt.

Sermon

↑ **Creed**

The Apostle’s Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence 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.**

↓ Offering

Voluntary

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” arr. Peter Crisafulli

↑ Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, “Lord, in Your mercy,” is spoken, to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

E For the Church, the colony of the Age to come, as she waits with eager expectation the revealing of her King, that she may welcome Him with joy. For our parish, that we may grow in our joy of serving Christ in the least of His brothers and sisters, loving Him in the hungry and the poor, the prisoners and the sick. Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For all relief efforts and all the ministries of mercy in Christ’s Church, that through their devoted service the disinherited and downtrodden would experience Christ’s mercy and be given the hope of everlasting life. This (evening/morning) we especially remember the work of Lutheran World Relief and Human Care in this community following the devastating effects of last month’s snowstorm. Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

E For all the baptized, that we might live watchful and sober lives, eagerly looking forward to and hastening the joy of our Lord’s appearing. Grant all who have been Baptized into Christ Jesus the courage and fortitude to live their lives as You so desire, that by showing mercy and love our neighbors we are proclaiming Your love. Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For all sisters and brothers of the Savior who cry out in their time of need, especially all who have asked for our prayers [*including _____*]. Let us beg that Christ would be to them their Health in sickness, their Joy in sorrow, and their Life in death. Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

E For our government, for all who make, administer, and judge our laws, for our armed forces, and for all who serve to bring order and justice out of chaos and greed, that God's protecting hand may rest on them and further them in every good deed. We remember this morning those who protect us, especially our volunteer New Milford Fire Department, our volunteer First Responders on our Ambulance Corp., and our New Milford Police Department. Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

P For all who commune this morning, that receiving at the altar a foretaste of the feast to come, they may be forgiven, renewed, and strengthened to set their hope fully on the grace revealed in our Savior. For the faithful in heaven who await the day of the resurrection, let us give our thanks and praise and join them in asking that that day may come swiftly. Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

L: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise," Lutheran Worship #450, stanzas 8-9

**The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is the same And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"**

**The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heavn'ly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!**

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt.
Tune: YIGDAL, Hebrew.
Text and Tune: Public domain

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, Giver of temporal and eternal life. You spared not the life of Your Son so that we may live with You forever. As You promised to gather Your people of old, gather us together as one to celebrate Your presence among us. As You promised to feed Your people as a shepherd would provide pasture, so feed us now on the body and blood of our Savior, truly present in, with, and under this bread and wine. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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.

Sharing of the Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Hymn

"The Lamb, The Lamb," Lutheran Service Book, #547, stanzas 1, 4, 5

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, He dies, He take my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He give me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song, prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Music: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Text and tune: (c) 1987 Morningstar Music Publishers

Setting (c) 1997 Morningstar Music Publishers

↓ Communion Distribution

"The King Shall Come," arr. Austin Lovelace

The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the altar rail this morning.

↑ Collect

E: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
C: **for His steadfast love endures forever.** Psalm 118:1

E: We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have refreshed us through this sacrament; go with us now that we may live this day to Your praise and glory, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through + Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Hebrews 13:20-21

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #451

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, O Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, Not wanting nor wasting, your rule in your
might

Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

All life you engender in great and in small; To all life befriender, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish in richness and range,
We wither and perish, but you never change.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Your angels adore you, enveiling their sight.
All laud we would render; oh, lead us to see
The light of your splendor, your love's majesty.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
Tune: *Welsh folk tune*

Musical Benediction

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful,” arr. Robert Lind

Dismissal

Postlude

“Crown Him with Many Crowns,” arr. Austin Lovelace.

Copyright Notice: Scripture quotations and readings are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright Notice: Liturgy (or appropriate portion thereof) from Lutheran Service Book (c) 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis. Used by permission. License #00010073.

Copyright Notice: Portions of our liturgy today are used by permission from Creative Worship (c) 2010 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis.