



# Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

[www.smelcnewmilford.org](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org)



## Pentecost 22

**Living in Our Master's Joy**

Sunday, November 13, 2011

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

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

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**Tues., Weds.,**  
**THURS 9am-3pm**

**As We Gather This Sunday**  
Living in Our Master's Joy

In today's Scriptures Zephaniah prophesies a day of wrath, a day of mourning. Paul writes that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. In spite of gloom and doom, there is joy in our hearts! In Jesus' parable of the talents, the good and faithful servants are commended not for how much they earned for their master, but simply because they trusted him and wanted to please him. Because of God's gift of grace-filled faith, we live in our Master's joy, both now and forever.



**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](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org) and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

### **Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation**

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus," arr. Andrew Fletcher

### **↑ Opening Hymn**

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure," Lutheran Worship Hymn #270, stanzas 1, 2, 5

Jesus, priceless treasure, Source of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,  
Long my heart was burning, And my soul was yearning, Lord with you to be!  
Yours I am, O spotless Lamb; Nothing I'll allow to hide you,  
Nothing ask beside you.

In your arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.  
Sin and hell in conflict fell With their bitter storms assail me;  
Jesus will not fail me.

Hence all fears and sadness, For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father, Though the storms my gather, Still have peace within.  
For, whatever I must bear, Still in you lies purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

**Text:** Johann Franch, 1618-77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, alt.

**Tune:** Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

### **Invocation**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** Let us go to God in humility and repentance that He may graciously forgive us.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P: Most merciful God,  
C: **we confess that we have not trusted You completely. We have forgotten that through Your Son our sins are forgiven; we have thought that our deeds would save us on the Last Day; we have kept parts of our lives hidden from others and thought they were hidden from You as well. Open our hearts so that we need not fear the Last Day and its judgment, but live each day in Your light, loving You above all else in heart, mind, and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P: Although we deserve nothing but punishment, by the grace of God for Jesus' sake, our heavenly Father declares us to be "children of light, children of the day" (1 Thessalonians 5:5), His "good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21a). Therefore, as a called and ordained 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.
- C: **Amen.**

## Introit

Psalm 90:1-12; Antiphon v. 17

We will speak the Introit this week responsively

Antiphon:

- P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
C: **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Psalm:

- P: LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
C: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**
- P: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"  
C: **For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**
- P: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,  
C: **like grass that is renewed in the morning:**
- P: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
C: **in the evening it fades and withers.**
- P: For we are brought to an end by Your anger;  
C: **by Your wrath we are dismayed.**
- P: You have set our iniquities before You,  
C: **our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**
- P: For all our days pass away under Your wrath;

**C: we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

P: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

**C: yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

P: Who considers the power of Your anger,

**C: and Your wrath according to the fear of You?**

P: So teach us to number our days

**C: that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

Antiphon:

P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;

**C: yes, establish the work of our hands!**

# 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: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You.

C: **Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting;**

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

C: **Amen.**

## ↓ Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7-16

(A prophecy of the great and terrible Day of the Lord)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 22nd Sunday after Pentecost is taken from Zephaniah, Chapter 1:

Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.

And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—

“I will punish the officials and the king's sons  
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.

“On that day,” declares the LORD,  
“a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,  
a wail from the Second Quarter,  
a loud crash from the hills.

Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the men

who are complacent,  
those who say in their hearts,

‘The LORD will not do good,

nor will he do ill.’  
Their goods shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.”  
The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.  
A day of wrath is that day,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle Reading**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(We are children of light, who build each other up.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from First Thessalonians, Chapter 5:

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## ↑ Alleluia and Verse

Matthew 25:29a

P: Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given,  
C: **and he will have an abundance. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

(The Parable of the Talents)

(Jesus said) “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## ↓ Hymn of the Day

“One Things’ Needful,” Lutheran Worship hymnal #277, stanzas 1, 5, 6

One thing’s needful; Lord, this treasure Teach me highly to regard;  
All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard.  
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving, No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.

The gain of this one thing all loss can requite,  
Can teach me in all things to find true delight.

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in you.  
Let me find in you my pleasure, Make my will and actions true,  
Humility there and simplicity reigning, In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training,  
If I learn from Jesus, this knowledge diving,  
The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

Therefore you alone my Savior,  
Shall be all in all to me;  
Search my heart and my behavior, Root all hypocrisy.  
Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me,  
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.  
This one thing is needful, all other are in vain;  
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain.

**Text:** William W. How, 1823-97, alt.  
**Tune:** Ralph Vaugh Williams, 1872-1958

## **Sermon**

### **Creed**

Apostles' 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

“Come Follow Me,” Said Christ the Lord,” arr. Richard Lloyd

## ↑ 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 Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- E Giver of every good and perfect gift, we confess that no one living is righteous before You, and so we plead Your mercy for us and for all people, that we might be given grace to stand before You on the day of Judgment, clothed completely in the righteousness of the Only Faithful One, Jesus Christ our Lord, and giving You endless thanks and praise for Your great mercy and love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Heavenly Father, Your Son will return at a time when people do not expect. Grant all Your baptized people to live holy lives in this age looking forward with eagerness to His joyous return, seeking only to be found in Him on that glorious Day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- E Giver of all we have, how often we forget that nothing is truly our own and that all belongs to You. Forgive us and help us to use Your gifts wisely so that we may be a blessing to others. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P King of all nations, to You we commend our government, our armed forces, and all whom You have placed in authority over us, asking that You would guide them, bless them, and uphold them in every good deed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- E Lord, our dwelling place in every generation, into Your merciful hands we commend all who suffer at this time—those who are ill, those who suffer the effects of aging, those who are lonely and frightened, those who are unjustly imprisoned, especially those who are persecuted for Your name, and all who have desired our prayers, especially Lynda, Dave, and all those known only You. Grant them Your peace, Your healing, Your life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Bountiful Host, in the Eucharist You spread before Your people a heavenly feast of joy for them to share here on earth. Grant that all who come to Your Son’s altar

- this day may receive His holy body and blood with living faith to their abundant blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C**    **hear our prayer.**
- E      Lord of Life, Your Son is the Resurrection from the dead, and so we give thanks for everyone who has fallen asleep in faith in Him, knowing that they live forevermore. Bring us to share with them the joys You have prepared, and grant that on the Last Day, clothed in our resurrection bodies, we may join the heavenly hosts in singing Your praises without end. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C**    **hear our prayer.**
- P      Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C**    **Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

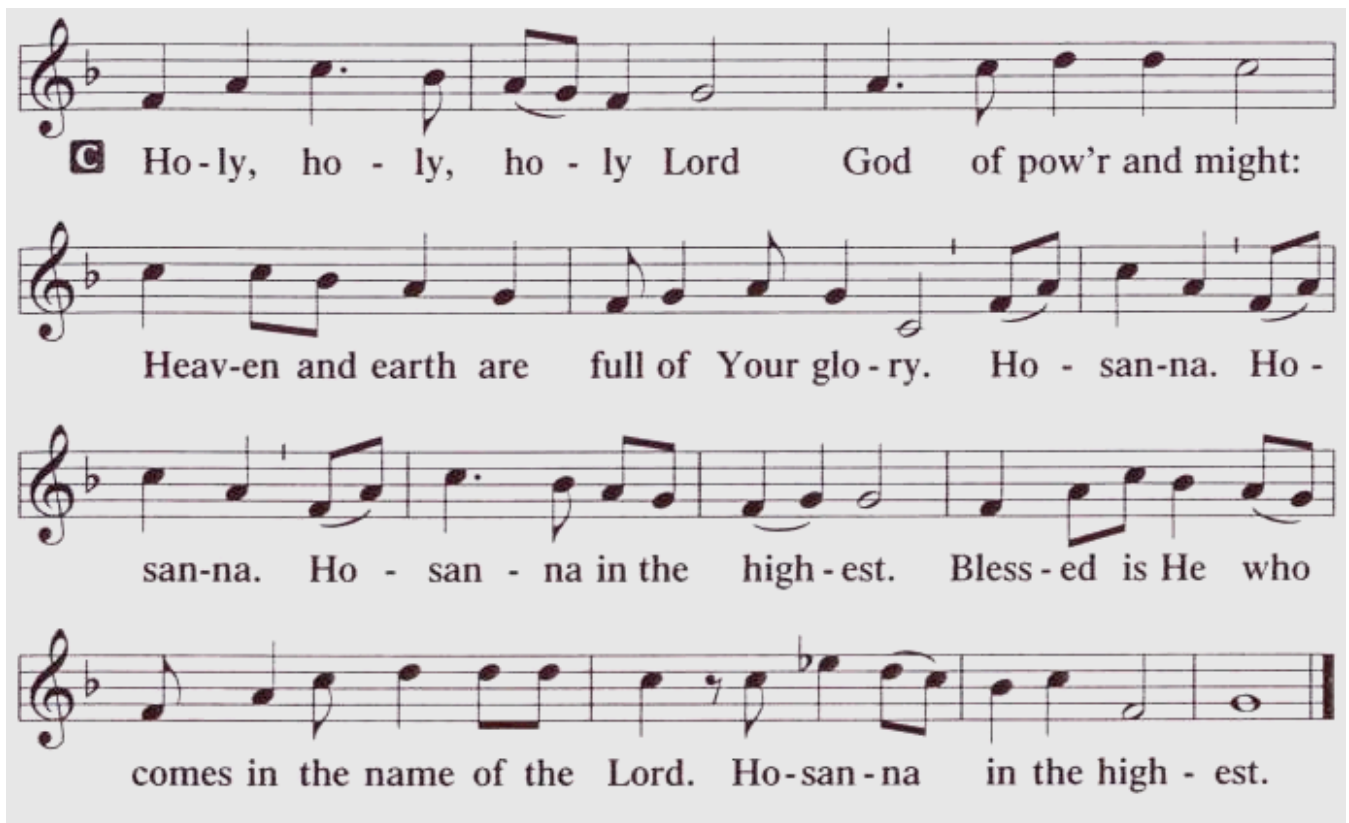
- P:     The Lord be with you.
- C:    And also with you.**
- P:     Lift up your hearts.
- C:    We lift them to the Lord.**
- P:     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C:    It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### Proper Preface

- P:     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

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord our God, for "You have been our dwelling place in all generations." *Psalm 90:1a* And though we deserved only punishment, You have "not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us." *1 Thessalonians 5:9-10a* Grant us now to receive our Lord under this bread and wine in true faith for the forgiveness of all our sins. 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

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: We share a sign of that peace with one another.

## Agnus Dei

"Lamb of God"

**G** 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.

## ↓ Communion Distribution

"O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars," arr. Quentin Thomas

**The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the floor of the sanctuary this morning.**

## ↑ Collect

E: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
C: **for His steadfast love endures forever.** Psalm118:1

Er: We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have again assured us of the forgiveness of our sins through this sacrament. Grant us now to leave, "having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation." 1  
Thessalonians 5:8 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: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

"I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus," Lutheran Worship hymnal #476

I pray you, dear Lord Jesus, My hert to keep and train  
That I your holy temple From youth to age remain.  
Oh, turn my thoughts forever From world wisdom's lore;  
If I but learn to know you, I shall not want for more

**Text:** Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Norman A. Madson, 1886-1962  
**Tune:** *Hartnack Zinck's Koralbog*, 1801

## Musical Benediction

"Lord, While for Humankind We Pray," arr. June Nixon

## Dismissal

## Postlude

"Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face," arr. June Nixon

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