



Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

www.smelcnewmilford.org



Pentecost 12

The Buck Starts and Stops Here

Sunday, September 4, 2011

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

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

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

As We Gather This Sunday
The Buck Starts and Stops Here



Today, we hear how our citizenships in God's kingdom and our nation are united. Ezekiel is called as a watchman to warn his fellow citizens, as are all Christians. St. Paul urges obedience to the ruling authorities (whom we have elected!) and then reminds us that loving each other fulfills God's Law. Jesus teaches us to care for children and to confront those who have given in to temptation. We are

called to define sin according to God's Law and subsequently offer His grace and forgiveness according to the Gospel. "The buck," our core responsibility, starts and stops with each one of us.



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: The Jaroslav Vajda Hymn 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

"Son of God, Eternal Savior," arr. Deborah Zufall

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope for everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Taken from the Lutheran Service Book

↑ Opening Hymn

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word," Lutheran Worship #202

Dearest Jesus, at your word We have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred And in glowing faith be near you
As the promises here given Draw us whole up to heaven.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks at night, Filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living Come but by your gracious giving.

Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; Help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
That our prayers and songs may please you As with grateful hearts we praise you.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most; Your blest Gospel's consolation
While we here on earth await you Till in heaven with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; sts. 1-3; Berliner Gesangbuch, 1070; st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, adapt.

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-73

Invocation and Opening Versicles

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

Kyrie

Lord, Have Mercy

Sung to the melody "Amazing Grace" or "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Look down in mercy on us, Lord,
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
For Your amazing grace.

Gloria

Sung to the melody "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"
God who flung the stars in space,
God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause,
God the source of nature's laws,
God of wisdom, power, and love,
God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"

Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall,
Loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave Your only Son to prove
What is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free,
Recreates Your family.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds,

C: **grant to us, Your servants, a proper sense of humility and godly desire**

P: that we may set our minds on the things that are right

C: **and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them;**

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

C: **Amen.**

↓ Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-9

(The prophet must warn the people.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost is taken from Ezekiel, Chapter 33:

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:1-10

(Love fulfills God's Law.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Romans, Chapters 13:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to

avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

↑ Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-20

(Where two or three are gathered.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th Chapter:

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

↓ Hymn of the Day

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow,” Lutheran Worship 461

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, O heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561

Sermon

↑ Creed

Sung to the Melody “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in You we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in You.

And You, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True Son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, You paid for our sins,
And, joined in Your rising, our new life begins.

Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,
On us, as on Christ, You descend from above;
You call us, You cleanse us, You open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, You restore paradise.

Offering

Voluntary

“O God, Whose Will is Life and Good,” arr. Carl Schalk

Prayer of the Church

Our prayers this evening are responsive. Following each petition, the officiant will say “Lord, in Your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

P Let us bring our prayers for our fellow believers and for all people to our heavenly Father’s throne of grace, trusting His promise to answer in the way He knows to be best.

E Gracious Father, we confess that without Your Son we are dead in our trespasses, overpowered by Satan, and overcome by our own sinful desires. O God, be merciful to us sinners. Grant to us a repentant faith so that we never cease believing that because of Christ Jesus You have raised us from death to life and given us heaven instead of hell. By Your Holy Spirit enable us to accomplish the good works that You have created us in Christ Jesus to do. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, fill us with a hatred for our sinfulness and a desire to please You. Make us humble as little children, just as Your Son, the greatest in Your kingdom, humbled Himself for us and for our salvation. Because You desire that none of Your little ones should perish and because sin is constantly crouching at our door, we beg You to call us back to Yourself when we are tempted to stray, deliver us from temptation and keep us in faith. Lord in Your mercy.

C **hear our prayer.**

E Gracious Father, form in us a love that cares so fervently about each other that we are willing to confront unrepented sin and joyfully speak Your forgiveness to those who confess. Make us a Church that is willing to excommunicate when necessary and that always desires and rejoices over each sinner who is restored to You. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, we believe You when You tell us that our governing authorities receive their authority from You. So teach us to obey You by obeying them. Provide us with rulers who are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Turn the hearts of those in our governmental leadership away from supporting acts that are contrary to Your law, most especially the horrific act of abortion. Endow those who lead our nation with wisdom as they make, administer, and judge our laws. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

E Gracious Father, because You have made us our brother’s keeper, fill us with care for the members of our earthly families and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In this time when our neighbors and friends in our communities and throughout the northeast are cleaning up from the ravages of Hurricane Irene,

with Your Son's light open our hearts to help those needing in anyway. For the sick, the lame, the struggling, the scared, grant them all healing and peace. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P These prayers we bring before You, gracious Father, by the guiding of Your Spirit and in the name of Jesus, we pray:

C **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5b

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

P: Heavenly Father, You have ordained all the powers that be on this earth.

C: We confess that we have failed to acknowledge Your authority through them; we have neglected to take personal responsibility for the ordering of our society; we have grumbled whenever we disliked the decisions made by those holding office. Forgive us and show us how we may rightfully serve You and one another.

P: Lord Jesus, You have called Your Church to seek out our wayward brothers and sisters in Christ with the precious news of Your forgiveness.

C: We confess that we have given up on many people when they have sinned against us or grown cold in the faith. Forgive us and strengthen us so that we may reconnect with them in meaningful ways, offering Your grace and forgiveness.

P: Christ our Lord, You are inclined to mercifully consider the plight of children, the oppressed, and the downtrodden.

C: We confess that we have neglected the "little ones" in our society except for those in our own families and through organized charities. Forgive us and open our eyes to see You in the least of those around us.

P: Jesus promised, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

He has heard our confession in His mercy and grace. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up 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, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the same, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 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

Sung to the melody "Holy, Holy, Holy"

"Holy, Holy, Holy!" All the saints in glory
Fill Your temple with their song around Your golden throne;
"Holy, Holy, Holy!" With them we adore You;
God in three Persons, all in Christ as one.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for sending Your only Son into this world to be subject to the earthly powers You ordained in order to give eternal life to the very creatures condemning Him to death. O Holy Spirit, giver of life and health and peace, grant us to eat and drink in true faith that we may remain faith-filled members of the Body of Christ in love and forgiveness, strengthened by His body and blood.

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

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C: Amen.

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: Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Agnus Dei

Sung to the melody "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Meek, slaughtered Lamb of God,
You bore the sinners' load
To buy our peace:
Now risen and enthroned,
With life and glory crowned,
To all the lost and found
Please grant Your peace.

↓ Communion Distribution

"O God of Mercy, God of Light," arr. Benjamin Culli

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

↑ Prayer of Thanksgiving

E: Let us pray: We give You thanks, Lord our God, that in this holy Sacrament You forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and give us life and salvation. Accompany

us on our pilgrim way that we may be Your people in our homes, community, and nation, 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

Selection of the Congregation

Musical Benediction

“Come, Labor On,” T. Tertius Noble

Dismissal

Postlude

“God of Grace and God of Glory,” arr. Don Hustad

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