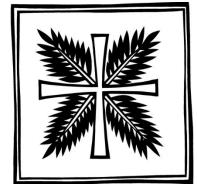
Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and



congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P*: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. *C*: **Amen.**
- P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
- P: Compassionate One,
- C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.
- P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. C: Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW # 344

*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 *ELW # S147*

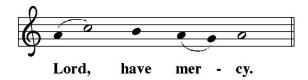


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





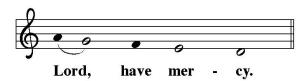
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

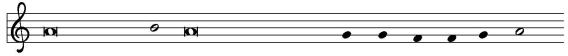




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,





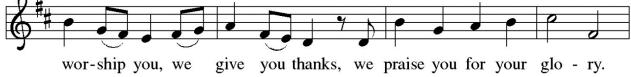
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

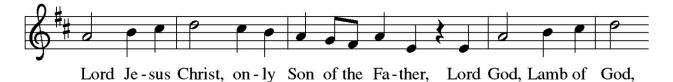


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



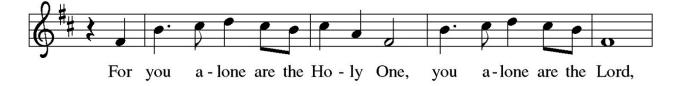
Lord God, Heat on IJ Ising, at Imgile y God and Tu their, we















*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16(read responsively)

- ⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- ¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
- ¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹² Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

- ¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, "You are my God.

- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

- ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
 - ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
 - ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

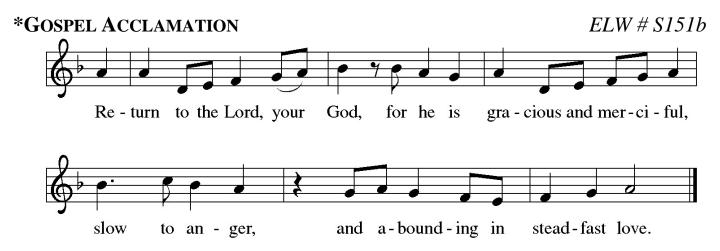
And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

- ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
- ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- ¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



*Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' "³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Pastor Traci

*NICENE CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C: 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 THE CHURCH

- A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- A: Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

- A: Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. C: Amen.

*THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

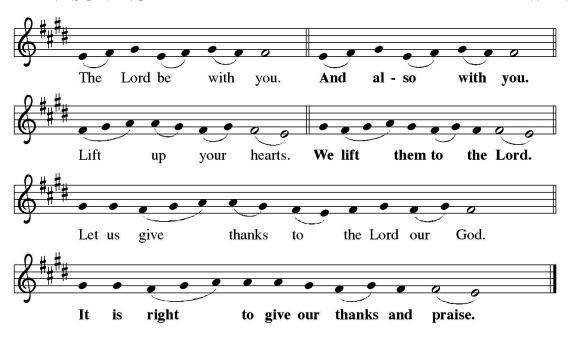
Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. C: Amen.

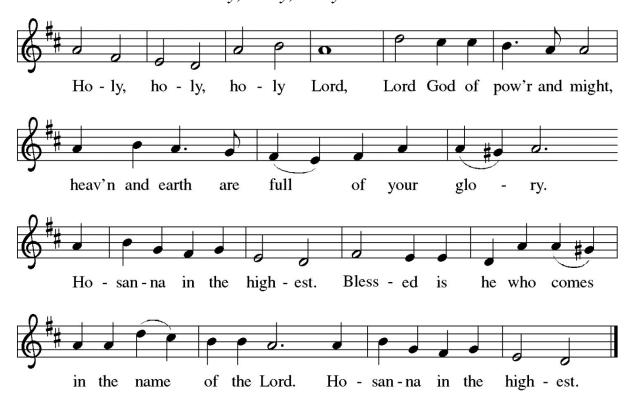
*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P:Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

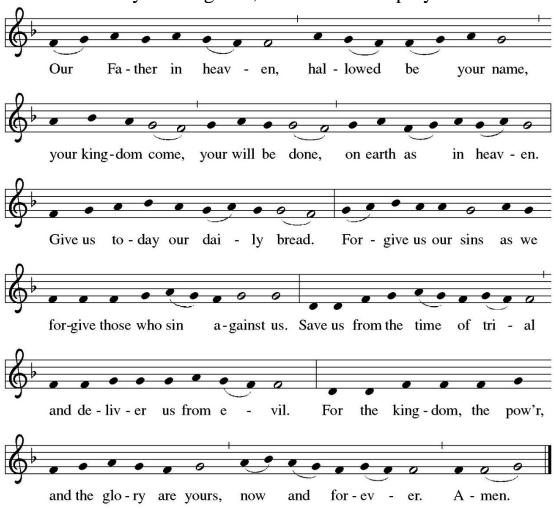
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

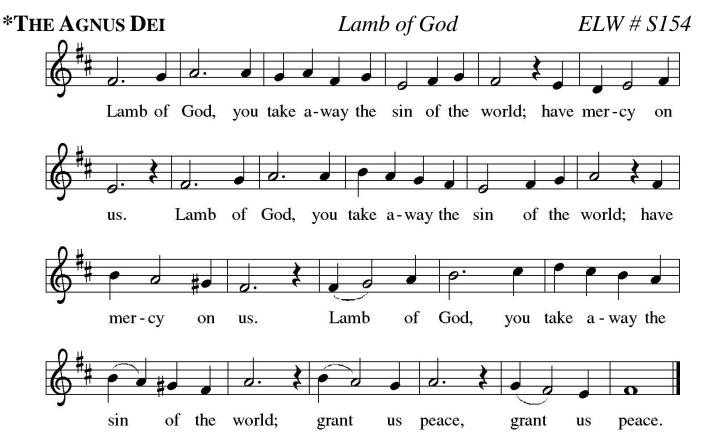
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *C:* Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

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





*INVITATION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. C: Thanks be to God.

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

*SENDING SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW # 347

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor - Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists - Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Lottie Ebersole

Our Lector - Andrea Paul

Our Acolyte – Ben Decker, Gavin Kuster, Norah Kuster

Our Usher - Martie Gilbert

Our Altar Guild – Tonya Walter, Tina Harclerode, Jane Fagans

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping"

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Thurs. 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Palm Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday – Social Ministry Committee Meeting, Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday – Office Closed

Prayer Vigil 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ann & Larry Irvin, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Pat & Robert Winston.

So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.

Prayer Concerns: Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Dr. Ramon Burket, Terry Creek, Marilyn Horton, Kristen Malloy, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Margie Smith, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).



Prayers of Christian sympathy are requested for the Beach family at Barb's passing. Barb is Amanda Decker, Stacy Kuster, and Laura Porta's mom.

Church Messenger

The April 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Altar Flowers



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00

Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 18^{th} , from 6:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual

and prayer life. You may pray at home. Please sign up by Monday, April 14th. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 814-793-2413.



Sign up for the print magazine

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

You can sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you would like to subscribe to the magazine.

The first expected issue to be mailed is Summer 2025. We will keep you updated.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



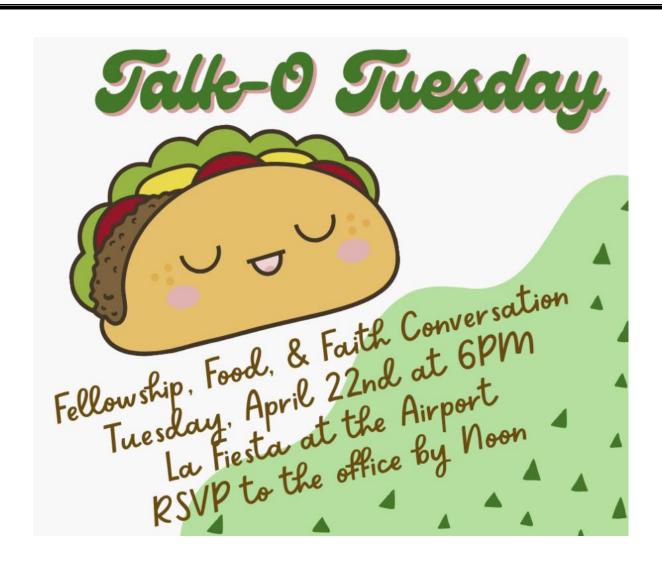
Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursdays, April 3 and April 17. The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00a.m. and other times by appointment.



Following is the "Wish List" for April: Cereal, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken Broth, Cleaning Supplies.

These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

Thank You! Linda Smith





SAVE THE DATE



Preparing for Death & Planning a Funeral

Sunday, May 18th, After Worship St. Matthew Fellowship Hall

Presentations & Time for Questions with Financial, Legal, Spiritual & Mortuary Professionals Lunch is Provided



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund continued to have good earnings in 2024 and as a result has \$6,334.60 for distribution in 2025. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 25, 2025. Funds will be distributed in June of 2025.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates. The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements. Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

- 1. Youth of all ages scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.
- 2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.
- 3. Worship and Music support for the worship of St. Matthew.
- 4. Capital Projects major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



Weekend Themes

- Self-care
- · Food & Health
- Arts & Media
- Environment
- Music & Dance
- Spiritual Life

COST:

120 + housing

Register today



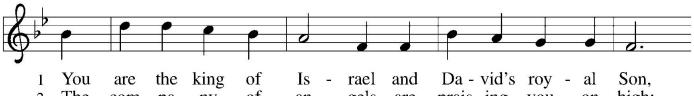
sequanota.com/tendfest

Come to Tend to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology, and fellowship.

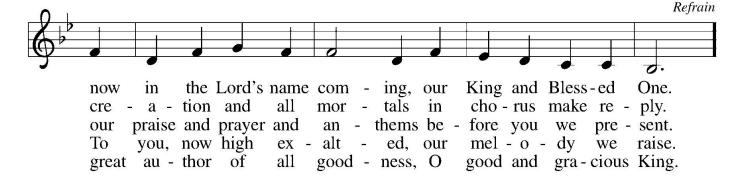
This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family.







- prais ing you 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are high; on
- pil grims with palms be fore The mul - ti - tude you went; 3 of
- pas sion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, be - fore your
- ac cept ed; Their prais - es you ac - cept the prayers we bring,



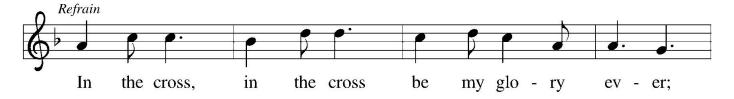
Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635



- 1 Je sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre cious foun tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem bling soul, love and mer cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop ing, trust ing ev er,



stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain. free all, to heal - ing a there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me. help me walk from day day with its shad - ow o'er me. I reach the gold - en till strand just be - yond the riv - er.





Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832-1915



- 1 Go to tempt - er's pow'r;
- dark Geth-sem a ne, all who feel the to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of Fol - low life ar - raigned;
- 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a dor ing at his feet,
- has ten to the tomb where they laid his 4 Ear - lv breath - less clay;



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. the worm-wood and the gall! mark that mir - a - cle of time, sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en

Watch with him one bit - ter hour; the pangs his Oh, soul sus-tained! God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. him



turn not from his griefs a - way; Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss; fin-ished!" hear him cry; meets our eyes. Christ is ris'n! He

learn from Je - sus Christ to pray. learn from him to bear the cross. learn from Je - sus Christ to die. Say - ior, teach us SO to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901