

**St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:30 & 11:00 Services

Gathering

Prelude

*Improvisation – Pastorate by Joseph Jongen*  
[1873-1953]

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Karen Natterstad

Temple Talk MICAH, Conor Williams

*Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship

Come journey with our God.

**We will follow where God leads.**

God is faithful to us in all things.

**We, too, will be faithful to God.**

**We Are Standing on Holy Ground** (*We will sing two times.*)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The text is: "We are stand - ing on Ho - ly Ground, and I know that there are an - gels all a - round; Let us praise Je - sus now. We are stand - ing in his pres-ence on Ho - ly Ground." The score ends with a double bar line.

We are stand - ing on Ho - ly Ground,  
and I know that there are an - gels all a - round;  
Let us praise Je - sus now.  
We are stand - ing in his pres-ence on Ho - ly Ground.

Text: Geron Davis, b. 1960. © 1983, Meadowgreen Music. Co./Songchannel Music Co. Music: Geron Davis, arr. Nolan Williams, Jr., b. 1969. Tune: Holy Ground. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

God of all that is,

**We have failed to trust you to care for us. We have tried to be our own god in our lives and the lives of others. We have not listened to your call, nor lived in faithfulness to you. We have caused harm directly and indirectly to ourselves, our neighbors, and your creation. In your infinite grace and mercy, forgive and restore us, so that with your help, we might become the people you created us to be.**

Hear the good news: By the power of the Holy Spirit we are made new creations in Christ Jesus, and through his selfless sacrifice, God forgives us all our sin. Walk with God in this newness of life.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song

**#533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Opening Litany

Like Ruth, we all face choices.

**We can choose what seems like the easier path.**

Ruth could have gone home to her family of origin.

**But often the harder path is the more fulfilling.**

Ruth left all she had known in order to return to Bethlehem with Naomi.

**After her life's tragedies, she was blessed by her decision.**

She gained the love of her mother-in-law, a supportive community, a husband, and a child.

**God holds us in our challenges.**

God guides us in our indecision.

**When we put our trust in God, we recognize God's gifts in our lives.**

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

God of the journey,

**Give us the commitment of Ruth, that we might follow your call, no matter how challenging it may seem. Open our ears to hear your words now and always, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*Word*

*Today's Bible reading, Ruth 1:1-17, can be found in your pew bible beginning on page 187.*

## Call to the Word

## Wherever You Go I Will Go

1. Where - ev - er you go I will go: dear Sav - ior  
 2. Where - ev - er you go I will go, near you I'll

lead the way; just where or how I  
 keep each day; Where - ev - er you go

do not know, but you'll not lead a - stray.  
 I will go, through all life's wear - y way.

Text: Thomas E. Hall, b. 1839. Alt. JRP. Music: Twenty-Fourth, CM. attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

## Call to Listen to the Word of God

Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.

**Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence. Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.**

As we listen, may our ears be attuned to you.

**As the Word is spoken, may you speak to us. May all we hear lead us to you.**

## Reading

Ruth 1:1-17

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn of the Day

## For All the Faithful Women

*(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

1. For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
 2. For Ruth who left her home - land and ven - tured forth in faith,  
 3. All praise to God our cre - a - tor! All praise to Christ the Son!

to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.  
 who pledged to serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death,  
 All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!

They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
 we praise you, God of Is - ra - el, and pray for hearts set free  
 With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,

To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.  
 to bind our - selves to oth - ers in love and loy - al - ty.  
 we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. b. 1923. [Alt. JRP] Copyright © 1993 GIA Publ. Inc. Music: Finnish folk tune.  
 Tune: Kuortane 76 76 D. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

## Profession of Faith

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

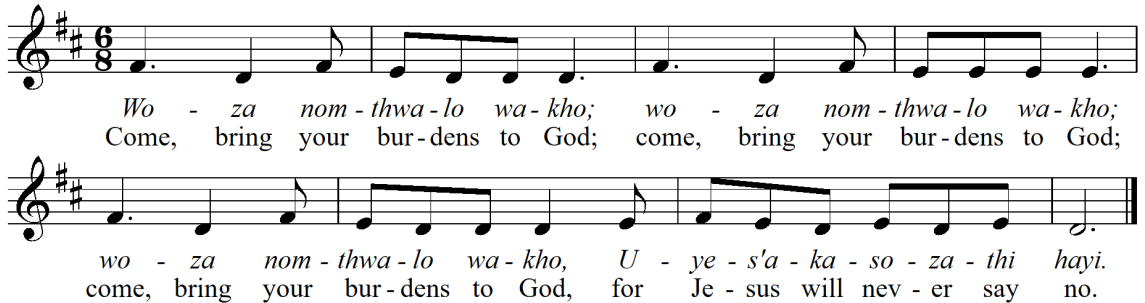
*Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.*

## Prayer of Intercession

With gratitude for our whole selves, created in your image and made new in Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

## Call to Prayer

### Come, Bring Your Burdens to God



Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho;  
 Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God;  
 wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U - ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.  
 come, bring your bur - dens to God, for Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Text: South African, tr. Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, Martine Stemerick. Copyright © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publ. Inc. Music: South African Melody, arr. Welile Sigabi.

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...Eternal God.

**In mercy, hear our prayer.**

We place in your loving arms these, our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your boundless mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## Meal

Musical Offering

8:30

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin* arr. Alex-Zsolt

11:00

*Jubilant Praise* by Janzt Black – Bells Angels

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory Response

**#183 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

## Offertory Prayer

O God, your faithfulness to us is without measure. We offer now our gifts in response to all that you have given us, that they might in turn demonstrate your faithfulness to our neighbors and all creation.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving - Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places . . .  
 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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## Words of Institution

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Jesus who will never leave us now invites us to the table to share in the feast of life.

Come and dine, for all is prepared for you.

**We come and share with one another this holy meal. There is a place and enough for all.**

*Please be seated.*

*Fruit juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Juice is in the center of the communion tray.*

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn

**#496 One Bread One Body**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

**Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

*Sending*

Blessing

May the love of the Creator enfold us, the wisdom of the Redeemer enlighten us, the fire of the Sustainer kindle us; and may the blessing of the Lord God come down upon us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

## May the God of Hope Go with Us

1. May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,\_\_\_\_  
 2. May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,\_\_\_\_

to a world in need with news of joy and peace.\_\_\_\_ *back to v.2.*  
 bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.\_\_\_\_

3. Pray - ing,\_\_\_\_ let us work for peace;\_\_\_\_  
 4. work - ing\_\_\_\_ for a world that's new,\_\_\_\_

sing - ing,\_\_\_\_ share our joy with all;\_\_\_\_ *back to v.4.*  
 faith - ful\_\_\_\_ when we hear Christ's call.\_\_\_\_

Text: tr. Alvin Schutmaat, 1921-1988, alt. Music: Music: Argentine folk melody. Tune: Argentina 11 11 11 11 7 7 7 7. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

## Dismissal

May the power of God set us free  
**To love and serve all God's people.**

## Postlude

*Toccata – Homage to Antonio Vivaldi* by Craig Penfield [b. 1948]