

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213
September 17th, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 Services

Gathering

Prelude

Prélude and Prayer – Nicolas Jacques Lemmens
[1823-1881]

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

God turns our sorrow into laughter.

God is faithful to us in our doubt.

Come into God's presence with joy.

With God all things are possible!

God It Was



1. God it was who said to A - br'ham, "Pack your bags and trav - el on!"
2. In this crowd of com - mon peo - ple, So we praise and praise God's choice.



God it was who said to Sar - ah, "Smile and soon you'll bear a son!"
God calls us to share God's pur - pose Start - ing now and start - ing here.

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adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. Tune: Stuttgart, 8787. 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

God of Grace and God of Laughter

1. God of grace and God of laugh-ter, sing-ing worlds from nought to be,
 2. When our lives are torn by sad-ness, heal our wounds with tune-ful balm;
 3. Turn our sigh-ing in-to sing-ing, mus-ic born of hope re-stored:
 sun and stars and all there-af-ter joined in cos-mic har-mo-ny:
 when all seems dis-cor-dant mad-ness, help us find a meas-ured calm.
 set our souls and voic-es ring-ing, tune our hearts in true ac-cord:
 give us songs of joy and won-der, mus-ic mak-ing hearts re-joice;
 Stead-y us with mus-ic's an-chor when the storms of life in-crease:
 till we form a migh-ty chor-us join-ing an-gel choirs a-bove,
 let our prais-es swell like thun-der, ech-o-ing our Mak-er's voice.
 in the midst of hurt and ran-cor, make us in-stru-ments of peace.
 with all those who went be-fore us, in e-ter-nal hymns of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944. Copyright © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932. Tune: In Babilone 87 87D.

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Opening Litany

God promises us the impossible,

And we laugh in our disbelief.

We see God show up in our lives,

And still doubt what we experience.

We are witness to true transformations,

But give credit to things that are human.

Still, God promises us what we can't comprehend,

And delivers on those promises in spite of us.

May our laughter of disbelief become the laughter of true rejoicing.

God, open our eyes to your incomprehensible gifts.

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

Gracious God,

In Christ you have promised that we would have life and have it abundantly. Help us trust you in all things and fill us with wonder at your promises fulfilled. Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

(8:30 Service)

2nd Grade Bible Distribution

Second Graders are invited to come forward.

Today's Bible reading, Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7, can be found in your pew bible beginning on page 10.

Call to Listen to the Word of God

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You spoke in the beginning, and all things came to be.

You spoke, and your Word came to live with us, full of grace and truth.

Bless this place where we would hear your voice.

You spoke, and your Word came to live with us, full of grace and 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

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Three strangers deliver an impossible promise to Abraham and Sarah, and Sarah laughs at the absurdity. But God has the last laugh, as Sarah indeed gives birth in her old age to a beautiful baby boy.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

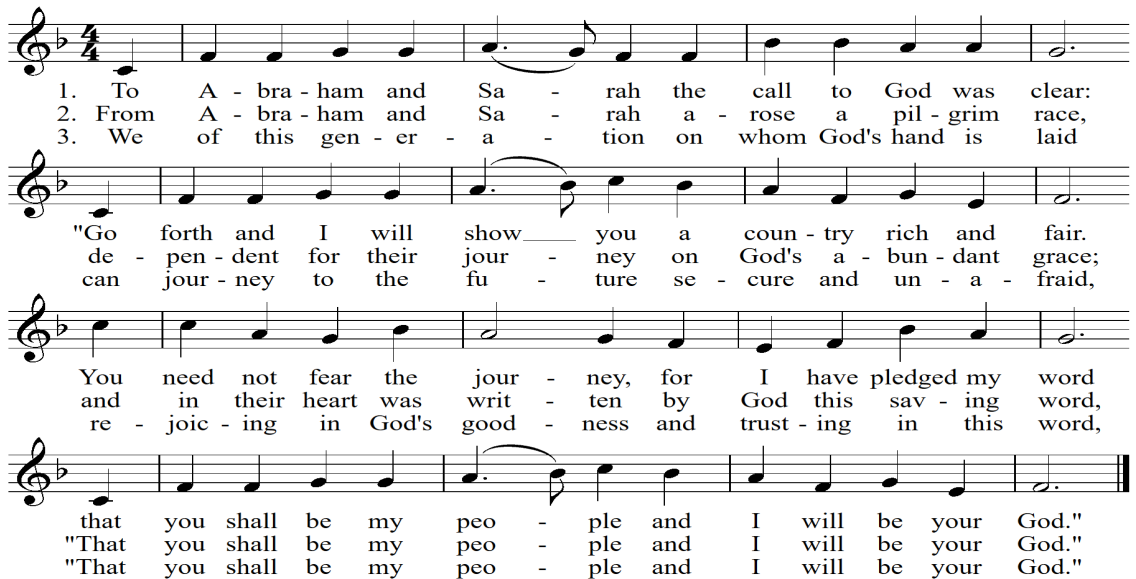
Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

I Will Be Your God [To Abraham and Sarah]

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



1. To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call to God was clear:
 2. From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
 3. We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid

"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
 de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
 can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,

You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
 and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
 re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,

that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

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Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Inside back cover of hymnal or page 105

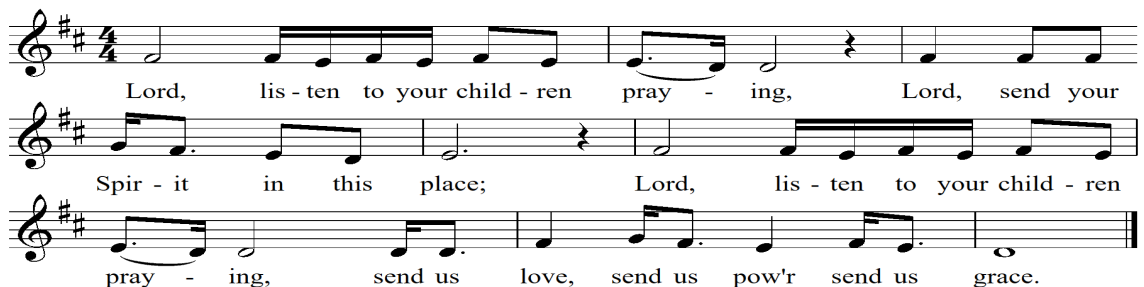
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis - ten to your child - ren pray - ing, Lord, send your
 Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your child - ren
 pray - ing, send us love, send us pow'r send us grace.

Text & Music: Ken Medema, b. 1943. Tune: Children Praying 98 99. Text and Music © 1973 Hope Publ. Co.
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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, though 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

The Love of the Lord arr. Jeanne Cotter

– Piano, John Paradowski

*Silver and gold have I none, no land to count as my home, yet
wealth beyond measure I own in the light of the love of
the Lord.*

*Faith is the wealth I possess finding its source in my God: faith in
the promise of Christ Is my life and my love of the Lord.*

*What more could bring us hope than to know the pow'r of his
life? What more could bring us peace than to share in
his suff'ring and death? What more could be our final
wish than to live in the love of the Lord?*

11:00

Praise His Holy Name! by Keith Hampton

– Senior Choir, Brian Smith, Percussion

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah!
Praise His holy name!*

*1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like
me; I once was lost, but now I'm found was blind but
now I see.*

*2. Must Jesus bear the cross a lone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross from ev'ryone and there's a cross for
me.*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His holy
name!*

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Response

We Are an Offering

We lift our voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of - fer - ing. Lord, use our voi - ces, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of - fer - ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

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Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, you give us all good things that we might flourish in your name. With
gratitude we offer these, our gifts, for the sake of others, that they might be used
for your work in the world.

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, ... 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy
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

With God all things are possible, including the resurrection of our beloved Christ Jesus,
who now invites you to feast in his name.

**We come and share with one another in 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 page 174

Communion Hymn **#483 Here Is Bread**

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

Sending of Communion (*Home Communion Team is invited forward*)

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless
all those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters
and brothers who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. May all the givers and the
receivers be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the
Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

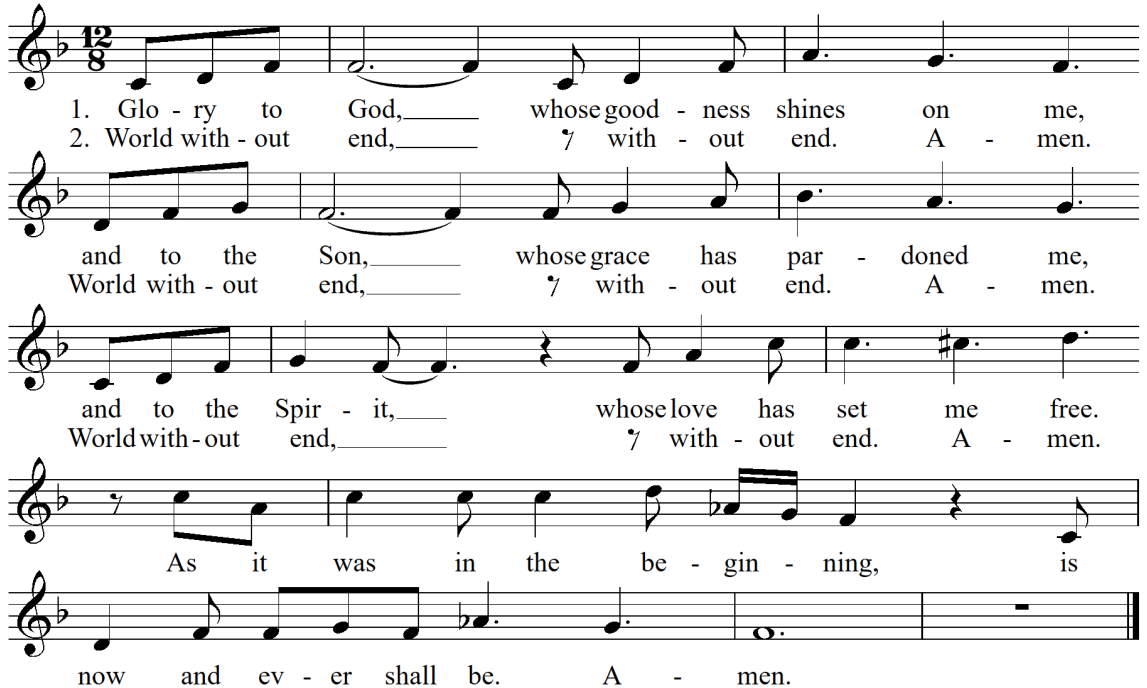
Blessing

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

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines



1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good - ness shines on me,
 2. World with - out end, _____ 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, _____ whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, _____ 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, _____ 7 with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
 now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

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Dismissal

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

Postlude

Fanfare – Nicolas Jacques Lemmens [1823-1881]

A healing service will take place in the Sanctuary after the 8:30 service.