

**Easter Six**  
**Sunday May 10, 2026**



**ONLINE**  
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

## ***Easter Six***

May 10, 2026

\* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**    *For All the Faithful Women*

arr. C. E. Walz

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.  
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

**ELW #408**

### **\*GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you  
all.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**\*Kyrie**

**p. 138**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast.....

**p. 140**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven  
and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your  
children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** *Amen*

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see  
how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went  
through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship,  
I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown  
god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to  
you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is  
Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human  
hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed  
anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all  
things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the  
whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the  
boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they  
would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find  
him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him  
we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own  
poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'  
<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20**      *Read responsively*

<sup>8</sup> Bless our <sup>1</sup> God, you peoples;  
let the sound of <sup>1</sup> praise be heard.  
<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us a- <sup>1</sup> mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>1</sup> feet to slip.**  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have <sup>1</sup> tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- <sup>1</sup> ver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> **You brought us in- <sup>1</sup> to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- <sup>1</sup> on our backs.**  
<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through <sup>1</sup> fire  
and water,  
but you brought us out into a place <sup>1</sup> of refreshment.  
<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house <sup>1</sup> with burnt offerings  
and will pay <sup>1</sup> you my vows—**  
<sup>14</sup> those that I promised <sup>1</sup> with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I <sup>1</sup> was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the <sup>1</sup>  
smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- <sup>1</sup> en and goats.**  
<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you <sup>1</sup> who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has <sup>1</sup> done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God <sup>1</sup> with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord <sup>1</sup> with my tongue.**  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil <sup>1</sup> in my heart,  
the Lord would <sup>1</sup> not have heard me;  
<sup>19</sup> **but in truth <sup>1</sup> God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound <sup>1</sup> of my prayer.**  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not reject- <sup>1</sup> ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing <sup>1</sup> love from me.

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

**People: *Thanks be to God***

## **\*Gospel Acclamation**

**p. 142a**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

**People: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

## **Gospel: John 14:15-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my

commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: *Praise to you, O Christ.***

## SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY      *Come Down, O Love Divine*

ELW #804

## \*NICENE CREED

Asst. Min.: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

***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 GOD'S PEOPLE

*Between each petition the following is said:*

Asst. Min.: Merciful God,

**People:** *Receive our prayer.*

Asst. Min.: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**People:** *Amen.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

*Jesus Paid It All*  
Taryn Harbridge, violin

## PREPARING THE TABLE

### OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

**Merciful God,**  
**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**  
**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day**  
**when we will hunger and thirst no more.**  
**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,**  
**that goodness and mercy may follow us**  
**and bless the world you love.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
***Amen.***

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**p. 144a**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **\*Sanctus**

**p. 144b**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in***

***the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Spoken in Unison

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

***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.***

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

**People: *Thanks be to God.***

**SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT**

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

***Amen.***

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Spoken in Unison

**Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
*Amen.***

**\*BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**     *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

**ELW #449**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**     *All for Jesus*

arr. Gina Sprunger



**The Quilting Crew**

**Chancel Flowers Dedications for 2026**  
***Several dates are available for chancel flowers.  
Flower dedications are now \$50.***



***Today's flowers are given by  
Peg Sampson in memory  
of C. Francis Sampson.***

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

*The meals are distributed on the third Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg. Prep work starts that morning at 9am at St. Matthew. Contact Barb Elsen if you would like to be a part of this vital ministry.*

### **Weekly Prayer List**

Brenda Artz, Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger,  
Don Dubs, Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand,  
Debbie LaNasa, Joan Matternas & Abbey,  
Diane Repp, Bob & Carolyn Sampson,  
Betty Sheaffer, Anna Stager,  
Angie Wendler, Shirley Wertz and Bob Wimer

### **Community Businesses Giving Back**

When you eat at Park City Diner or Knight and Day Diner, simply mention St. Matthew at checkout. A percentage of your bill will be donated to our church, and we receive quarterly checks through their community program.

Enjoy a meal, support a local business, and bless our church — all at no extra cost to you!



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Statement of Welcome, Affirmation  
and Full Participation**



Welcome to St Matthew, the little church  
with a big heart.



We are a Reconciling in Christ  
(Open and Affirming)  
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",  
we really mean it.

We strive to live that out in our actions as well as our words.  
We publicly and humbly commit to do what it takes to truly be  
a sanctuary filled with warmth, love, understanding, safety,  
respect and care for all who enter here.

*(Please see our Full Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full  
Participation on our website: [www.stmatthewelc.com](http://www.stmatthewelc.com). Copies of  
the Full Statement are also available in the Education  
and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*



**MAY BIRTHDAYS!**

**5/4 Nancy Smith**  
**5/5 Bob Wimer**  
**5/9 Mimi Ruth**  
**5/19 Lunda Shaub**  
**5/22 Cynthia Longenecker**  
**5/24 Linda Tice**  
**5/24 Mark Smith**

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES!**

**5/2 Brad & Sheila Charles**  
**5/17 Paul & Donna Kilgore**  
**5/19 Erik & Sarah Teichmann**  
**5/28 Steve & Sue Feldmann**

**The Congregation**

The Ministers

**Pastor Robin Fero**

**Church Office**

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

**Cliff Eshbach**

Council President

**Susan Feldmann**

Director of Music/Choir

**Ann Hossler**

Organist/Pianist

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Care for May:**

Linda Tice & Barb Elsen

**Assisting Minister:**

Barb Emmerich

**Greeter:**

Kay Gontner

**Usher:**

Barb Elsen

**Reader:**

Peg Sampson

**Counters:**

Brad Charles & Brenda Stauffer

**5/9 Saturday**  
9:30am CPR Class \*  
5:00pm Worship

**5/16 Saturday**  
2:00pm Quilting Workshop  
5:00pm Worship

**5/10 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**5/17 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

**5/11 Monday**  
7:00pm Church Council Mtg

*\*Events scheduled for outside groups that use our facility. You are welcome to attend or sign up for all other events on the calendar*

**5/13 Wednesday**  
12:00pm Bible Study  
6:30pm RIC Committee Mtg

**5/14 Thursday**  
6:30pm Vocal Choir

**5/15 Friday**  
1:30pm CPR Class \*

**Scripture Readings—  
May 16-17, 2026**

**Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11**