

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 28, 2024

Color of the Day: Green - suggesting spiritual growth and maturity. There is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

Opening Hymn #819 – Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good
Confession and Absolution Page 167

Service of the Word

Introit. Page 168

Ps. 32:1-2, 4, 5-7; antiphon: Ps. 32:10

Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.
Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.
Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.
I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you
forgave the iniquity | of my sin.
Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when
you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

Kyrie Page 168
Hymn of Praise (This Is The Feast) Page 170
Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 172
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 172

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.’¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”

Gradual. Page 172

Ps. 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*
Extol him, all | peoples!
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle Reading. Page 172

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.
²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.
³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.
⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”
⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an

idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 173

Holy Gospel Page 173
Mark 1:21-28

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #842 - Son of God, Eternal Savior

The Sermon **Love Builds Up** ~1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>

Introduction

Have you ever played _____.

Concerning Knowledge

Head knowledge _____.

Heart knowledge _____.

True knowledge _____.

God has _____.

True knowledge _____.

Concerning Idols

Idols, gods (small “g”) really are _____.

There is only One _____.

Concerning Correct Use of Knowledge

Paul encourages us to err on the side of _____.

Adiophora means _____.

The bottom line _____.

What Does This Mean?

We get our head knowledge right when _____.

We get our heart knowledge right when _____.

We rightly exercise our knowledge when _____.

We rightly exercise knowledge when the Lord _____.

Thanks be to God _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Creed Page 174/175

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 175

Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

Offertory Page 176

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 177

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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 178

Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord Page 179

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 180

Distribution Page 181

Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #541 – “Away from Us!” the Demon Cried

#698 – May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

#729 - I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 181

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 183

Closing Hymn #696 - Oh God, My Faithful God