

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

The Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs, Pastor

The Rev. Arturo G. Mendez, Associate Pastor

21434 East Hardy Road Houston, Texas 77073

Office Phone: (281) 443-2304 Fax Number: (281) 443-8463

Church Website:

www.stmatthewlcms.com

Pastor Bogs' Email:

pastorbogs.smlcw@gmail.com

Pastor Mendez's Email:

pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com

Office Email:

office.smlcw@gmail.com

Pastor Bogs' Mobile:

(832) 515-4830

Pastor Mendez's Mobile:

(832) 883-1705

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany ~ February 2, 2025

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 #544 – O Love, How Deep

Confession and Absolution Page 167

Service of the Word

Introit Page 168

Ps. 10: 16-18; antiphon: Ps. 10:12

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift | up your hand;*
forget not the af- | flicted.

The LORD is king forever and | ever;*
the nations perish | from his land.

O LORD, you hear the desire of the af- | flicted;*
you will strength- | en their heart;

you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and | the oppressed,*
so that man who is of the earth may strike ter- | ror no more.

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.

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift | up your hand;*
forget not the af- | flicted.

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

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

¹⁷But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.

¹⁸And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”

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 12:31b—13:13

³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 173

Holy Gospel..... Page 173

Luke 4:31-44

³¹And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Ha! 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.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. ³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. ⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. ⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Children’s Message

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

The Sermon.....**The Greatest Is Love ~ 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13**

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

Love is _____.

What Is Faith?

It is said that faith is _____.

Faith is also _____.

What Is Hope?

It is said that hope is _____.

There is a distinction _____.

What Is Love?

It is said that love is _____.

Agape love is _____.

Agape love is _____.

And so, agape love _____.

An Aside

Love begins _____.

Our Lord loves us so much _____.

How Do We Use This Text?

We could use this text as _____.

This text shows us _____.

Jesus is our example _____.

Love is _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

CreedPage 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.

OffertoryPage 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 #849 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#533 – Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

#803 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord)..... Page 181

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 183

Closing Hymn #722 - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me