

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 12, 2023



**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** ..... #396 – *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

**Confession and Absolution** ..... Page 167

### *Service of the Word*

**Introit** ..... Page 168

Ps. 98: 7-9; antiphon: Ps. 98:2

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it;\*  
the world and those who | dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together be- | fore the

LORD,\*  
for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world with | righteousness,\*  
and the peoples with | equity.

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.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**Kyrie** ..... Page 168

**Hymn of Praise (This Is The Feast)** ..... Page 170

**Salutation & Collect of the Day** ..... Page 172

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly

suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your

goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his just decrees then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

**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 3:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

**Choral Anthem**

**Alleluia & Verse** ..... Page 173

**Holy Gospel** ..... Page 173

*Matthew 5:21–37*

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that

everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. <sup>31</sup>'It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup>'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... #412 - *The People That in Darkness Sat*

**The Sermon** ..... God Gives Growth ~ 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

*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**

This week we continue \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Problem**

The problem about which Paul \_\_\_\_\_.

The people are thinking \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul goes on to express \_\_\_\_\_.

And so there is \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Illustration**

To help the Corinthians and us \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul goes on to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

And so Paul puts it to us \_\_\_\_\_.

**What Does This Mean?**

Paul is correct \_\_\_\_\_.

When it comes to the church \_\_\_\_\_.

And so we have a tendency \_\_\_\_\_.

And so there is division \_\_\_\_\_.

The question we might ask \_\_\_\_\_.

God grows His church \_\_\_\_\_.

God grows His church \_\_\_\_\_.

God grows His church \_\_\_\_\_.

God grows His church \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, we are simply left \_\_\_\_\_.

God's Word to us today \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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**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** ..... #620 – *Jesus Comes Today with Healing*

#865 – *Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain*

#729 - *I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

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

**Post-Communion Collect and Benediction** ..... Page 183

**Closing Hymn** ..... #921 - *On What Has Now Been Sown*