

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
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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 #477 – Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Confession and Absolution Page 167

Service of the Word

Introit Page 168

Ps. 119: 1-2, 4-5; antiphon: Ps. 119:17

I will praise you with an | upright heart,*
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.
Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!
Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*
who seek him with their | whole heart.
You have commanded your | precepts*
to be kept dil- | igently.
Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
in keeping your | statutes!
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.
I will praise you with an | upright heart,*
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.

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

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

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 15:1-20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. ¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not

been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 173

Holy Gospel Page 173

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.



Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #394 - Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

The Sermon **Christ Has Been Raised** ~ 1 Corinthians 15:(1-11) 12-20
 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

Today is _____.

The difference between _____.

Paul points to _____.

Paul’s Argument

If the dead are not raised _____.

Without forgiveness _____.

If Christ had not been raised _____.

If we have hope _____.

Thank God

Paul’s words are words of _____.

We know that, _____.

We consider ourselves not _____.

What Does This Mean?

We repeat, the difference between Christians and non-Christians _____.

Paul’s words encourage us _____.

The facts of the resurrection _____.

Because of what Christ has done _____.

How fitting _____.

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 #901 – Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

#486 – If Christ Had Not Been Raised From Death

#741 - Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 181

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 183

Closing Hymn #474 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen