

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 23, 2023

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

Opening Hymn #465 - Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Confession and Absolution Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 133 antiphon: Ps. 133:1

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of | Aaron,*
running down on the collar | of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of | Zion!*
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for- | evermore.

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.

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading Page 156

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Gradual Page 156

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading Page 156

1 Peter 1:17-25

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156

Holy Gospel Page 157

Luke 24:13-35

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #483 - *With High Delight Let Us Unite*

The Sermon *This Word Is the Good News ~ 1 Peter 1:17-25*
Miss a sermon visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Again this morning we continue _____.

God’s Plan

Peter explains that according to _____.

According to God’s plan _____.

According to God's plan _____.

According to God’s plan _____.

And according to God’s plan _____.

The Result

Peter moves from _____.

God has taken care of _____.

Peter goes on to remind us _____.

What Does This Mean?

For those of us who think _____.

Thanks be to God _____.

Thanks be to God _____.

Thanks be to God _____.

How Is This Done?

Sometimes in our catechism _____.

Our response of faith _____.

And our response of faith _____.

What a great _____.

Other Notes or Questions for the Pastor:

Creed Page 158

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 159

Offertory. Page 159

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ *Service of the Word* ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Preface Page 160

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus and Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord Page 162

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible.

Distribution Hymns #464 - *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

#469 - *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

#475 - *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 165/66

Closing Hymn. #918 - *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*