

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 5, 2024

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#655 - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Confession and Absolution Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: Ps. 66:16

Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*

and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;*

sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!

Bless our God, O | peoples;*

let the sound of his | praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the | living*

and has not let our | feet slip.

Blessèd | be God,*

because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast | love from me!

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.

Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*

and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading. Page 156

Acts 10:34-48

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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 John 5:1-8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Choral Anthem
 Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156
 Holy Gospel. Page 157

John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²[Jesus said:] "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day..... #556 – *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

The Sermon We Shall Overcome ~ 1 John 5:1-8
 Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Today is the _____ .

Now please notice _____ .

Faith Given, Response Stirred (v. 1-5)

With those greetings _____ .

John continues _____ .

As John continues _____ .

John continues _____ .

How Do You Know? (V. 6-8)

So, how do we know _____ .

The next testimony _____ .

The second testimony _____ .

The last testimony _____ .

The second testimony _____ .

What Does This Mean?

Again we are reminded _____ .

God gives and then _____ .

God gives; God stirs _____ .

And as we were reminded _____ .

And so we have God's _____ .

Indeed, God's Word _____ .

So, today is _____ .

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Creed Page 158

Offering & Prayer of the Church Page 159

Offertory Page 159

Our First Fruits and 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.

☒ ☒ ☒ *Service of the Sacrament* ☒ ☒ ☒

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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord's Prayer & The Words of Our Lord Page 162

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. Page 162

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

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 #602 – *The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*

#597 - *Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying*

#845 - *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

#605 - *Father Welcomes*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord)..... Page 164

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction..... Page 165/166

Closing Hymn #821 - *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*