

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ May 11, 2025

*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 ..... #821 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
Confession and Absolution ..... Page 151

### ☩ ☩ ☩ Service of the Word ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit ..... Page 152  
*Ps. 78: 70-72; 79:13 antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

He chose David his servant and took him from the | sheepfolds,\*  
from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his in- | heritance.\*

With upright heart he shep- | herded them\*  
and guided them with his | skillful hand.

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you for- | ever;\*

from generation to generation we will re- | count your praise.

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 am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie ..... Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This is the Feast) ..... Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day ..... Page 156

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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 20:17-35*

<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

<sup>18</sup>And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

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

*Revelation 7:9-17*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne

and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Choral Anthem**

Lent Verse (Alleluia Verse) . . . . . Page 156

Holy Gospel . . . . . Page 157

*John 10:22-30*

<sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”



**Children’s Message**

Hymn of the Day . . . . . #709 - *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

The Sermon . . . . . Washed in the Blood of the Lamb ~ Revelation 7:9-17

*Miss a sermon visit Pastor Bogs’ blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

This morning we continue \_\_\_\_\_.

The beginning of the chapter speaks of 144,00. This number comes from the twelve tribes of Israel (12), times (X) the twelve apostles (12), times the number of completion (10) cubed (1000), thus 12 X 12 X 1000 = \_\_\_\_\_.

Their song reminds us \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Song of the Angels, Elders and Four Living Creatures**

Another sevenfold \_\_\_\_\_.

Amen, meaning \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Elder’s Questions**

Who are these \_\_\_\_\_.

John’s answer \_\_\_\_\_.

The devil does not spend time \_\_\_\_\_.

It is faith \_\_\_\_\_.

“Therefore” \_\_\_\_\_.

The first three lines \_\_\_\_\_.

The next four lines \_\_\_\_\_.

The final three lines \_\_\_\_\_.

**What Does This Mean?**

This morning we get a glimpse of \_\_\_\_\_.

The question we might as, again, is \_\_\_\_\_.

Why are we here? We are here to 1) \_\_\_\_\_.

2) \_\_\_\_\_.

3) \_\_\_\_\_.

I would encourage you to encourage others, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory . . . . . Page 159

Offering & Prayer Of The Church . . . . . Page 159

**✠ ✠ ✠ 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 (Holy, Holy, Holy) . . . . . Page 161

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

Pax Domini & 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 . . . . . #752 - *Be Still, My Soul; the Lord is on Your Side*  
 #676 - *Behold a Host, Arrayed in White*  
 #812 - *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

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

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction . . . . . Page 166

Closing Hymn . . . . . #672 - *Jerusalem the Golden*