

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

The Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs, Pastor

The Rev. Arturo G. Mendez, Associate Pastor

21434 E. Hardy Rd., Houston, TX 77073

281-443-2304 or 281-443-8463

www.stmatthewlcms.com

office.smlcw@gmail.com

*Pastor Bogs' Contact Info:*

Cell Phone: 832-515-4830

pastorbogs.smlcw@gmail.com

*Pastor Mendez's Contact Info:*

Cell Phone: 832-883-1705

pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com

## The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### June 16, 2024

*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 . . . . . #601 - All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Confession and Absolution . . . . . Page 203

## ✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit . . . . . Page 204

*Ps. 92: 12-15; antiphon: Ps. 92:1*

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.  
The righteous flourish like the | palm tree\*  
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.  
They are planted in the house | of the LORD;\*  
they flourish in the courts | of our God.  
They still bear fruit in | old age;\*  
they are ever full of | sap and green,  
to declare that the LORD is | upright,\*  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in him.  
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.  
It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis . . . . . Page 204

Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 205

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and

inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 205

*Ezekiel 17:22-24*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

Gradual . . . . . Page 205

*Ps. 145: 3, 5b, 6b*

Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,\*  
and his greatness is un- | searchable.  
On your wondrous works, I will | meditate,\*  
and I will declare your | greatness.

Epistle . . . . . Page 205

*2 Corinthians 5:1-17*

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside

ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Choral Anthem**

Alleluia & Verse. . . . . Page 205

Holy Gospel. . . . . Page 206

*Mark 4:26-34*

<sup>26</sup>And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Creed . . . . . Page 206/207

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day . . . . . #500 – *Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid*

The Sermon . . . . . We Live by Faith ~ 1 Corinthians 5:1-10 (11-17)

*Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

A few weeks ago \_\_\_\_\_ .

Last week \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Perspectives**

Our life on earth \_\_\_\_\_ .

How often do you hear \_\_\_\_\_ .

Eternity is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Meanwhile we Groan**

We groan sinfully when \_\_\_\_\_ .

We groan in illness when \_\_\_\_\_ .

We groan as Christians \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Our Purpose**

God created us \_\_\_\_\_ .

God redeemed us \_\_\_\_\_ .

We remain confident \_\_\_\_\_ .

We have seen \_\_\_\_\_ .

Our desire \_\_\_\_\_ .

We will be judged \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Result**

We are \_\_\_\_\_ .

We bear witness \_\_\_\_\_ .

We bear witness \_\_\_\_\_ .

**What Does this Mean?**

In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ .

God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ .

Because of what God has done \_\_\_\_\_ .

It is good and right \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

Prayer of the Church . . . . . Page 207

*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.*

Offering & Offertory Hymn . . . . . #955 - Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

**☩ ☩ ☩ Service of the Sacrament ☩ ☩ ☩**

Preface & Sanctus. . . . . Page 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Lord’s Prayer, Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini

. . . . . Page 209

Agnus Dei & Distribution. . . . . Page

210

*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 . . . . . #704 – Renew Me, O Eternal Light

#720 - We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

#783 - Take My Life and Let It Be

#742 - For Me to Live Is Jesus

Nunc Dimittis. . . . . Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction . . . . . Page 212

Closing Hymn. . . . . #603 - We Know That Christ Is Raised