

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023

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 #726 - Evening and Morning

Confession and Absolution Page 203

☩ ☩ ☩ Service of the Word ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit Page 204

Ps. 56: 3-4, 10-11; antiphon: Ps. 56:13

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

When I | am afraid,*

I put my | trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can flesh | do to me?

In God, whose | word I praise,*
in the LORD, whose | word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can man | do to 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.

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis Page 204

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 205

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

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

Romans 6:12-23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what

fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Choral Anthem

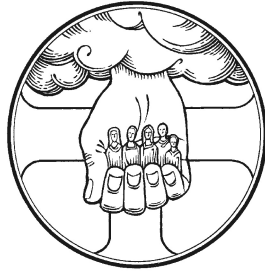
Alleluia & Verse Page 205

Holy Gospel Page 206

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.



Creed Page 206/207

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #659 - Lord of Our Life

The Sermon Gift ~ Romans 6:12-23

Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Last week _____.

Grace

This morning _____.

Grace is _____.

Our Nature

To better understand _____.

Not only are we conceived _____.

We Are Slaves

Paul goes so far _____.

Paul tells us _____.

And yet, Paul gives us _____.

Fruits of Faith

Finally, Paul outlines _____.

Paul writes to help _____.

God gives _____.

God gives _____.

What Does this Mean?

How do we understand _____.

Grace is the fact that _____.

God gives and we are _____.

The price for sin _____.

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 #722 - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

#629 - What Is This Bread

#718 - Jesus, Lead Thou On

Nunc Dimittis Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn #877 - God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven