

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 9, 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 #839 - O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Confession and Absolution Page 203

☩ ☩ ☩ *Service of the Word* ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit Page 204

Ps. 91: 2, 9-10; antiphon: Ps. 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust."

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*

the Most High, who is my | refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.

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.

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis Page 204

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 205

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days.
Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world,
and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your
salvation; 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

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of
Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having
salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a
donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set
your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will
restore to you double.

Gradual Page 205

Rom. 11:33, 36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Page 205

Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under
sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but
I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the
law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells
within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my
flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry
it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what
I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do
it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at
hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my
members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making
me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man
that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God
through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with
my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 205

Holy Gospel Page 206

Matthew 11:25–30

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



Creed Page 206/207

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #684 - *Come Unto Me, Ye Weary*

The Sermon

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.

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 #698 - *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*
#707 - *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*
#579 - *The Law of God Is Good and Wise*

Nunc Dimittis Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn #917 - *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*