

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 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 #686 - *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Confession and Absolution Page 203

☩ ☩ ☩ *Service of the Word* ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit Page 204

Ps. 103: 15-19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

As for man, his days | are like grass;*
he flourishes like a flower | of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and | it is gone,*
and its place knows | it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on
those who | fear him,*

and his righteousness to children's | children,
to those who keep his | covenant*
and remember to do his com- | mandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the | heavens,*
and his kingdom rules | over all.

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.

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

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

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return
there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to
the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from
my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that
which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and
the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the
field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the
cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a
name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according
to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by
the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all
who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive
the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit
of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself
bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children,
then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer
with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 205

Holy Gospel. Page 206

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And
great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down.
And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in
parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds
fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell
on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they
sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were
scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell
among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell

on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”



Creed Page 206/207

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #577 - *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

The Sermon Our Adoption ~ Romans 8:12-17
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

Paul has been telling us _____.
This morning Paul outlines _____.

Pre-Adoption

David tells us _____.
We try _____.

Adoption

We are adopted as the Holy Spirit works through _____.
We are adopted as the Holy Spirit works through _____.
We are strengthened in faith through _____.
We are strengthened in faith through _____.
We are strengthened in faith through _____.
To sum it up _____.

Life Now, After Adoption

Now we live _____.
We look forward to _____.

What Does this Mean?

We need to hear _____.

We are reminded _____.
Being given faith _____.
We look forward to _____.
Paul knows the importance of _____.
It is all _____.

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 #637 - *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*
#594 - *God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It*
#735 - *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

Nunc Dimittis Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn #921 - *On What Has Now Been Sown*