

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 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 #650 - *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

Confession and Absolution Page 203

☩ ☩ ☩ *Service of the Word* ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit Page 204

Ps. 86: 11-15; antiphon: Ps. 86:6

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*
unite my heart to | fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,*
and I will glorify your name for- | ever.

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*
you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men |
seek my life,*

and they do not set you be- | fore them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
listen to my | plea for grace.

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis Page 204

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 205

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

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 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 205

Holy Gospel Page 206

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"



³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Creed Page 206/207

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #772 - *In Holy Conversation*

The Sermon We Have Hope ~ Romans 8:18-27
Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabs writings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

The color green is for _____ .
During the Pentecost season we _____ .

Our Present Sufferings

There is suffering because _____ .
The whole creation is subject to _____ .
The good news is that this is _____ .

Our Present Hope

We have God's promise _____ .
We have been given _____ .
We have hope for _____ .

Our Present Help

The work of the Holy Spirit is to _____ .
We misunderstand and think we are _____ .
The Holy Spirit also _____ .
And the Holy Spirit _____ .

What Does this Mean?

We are reminded that God created _____ .
Man _____ .
Jesus came _____ .
The Holy Spirit works _____ .
We have hope _____ .
God never promised _____ .

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 #628 - *Your Table I Approach*
#773 - *Hear Us, Father, When We Pray*
#664 - *Fight the Good Fight*

Nunc Dimittis Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn #794 - *The Lord, My God, Be Praised*