

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost July 30, 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 worshippers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

**Opening Hymn** ..... #743 - Jesus, Priceless Treasure

**Confession and Absolution** ..... Page 203

✠ ✠ ✠ **Matins** ✠ ✠ ✠

Page 219

**Common Antiphon and Venite** ..... Page 220

**Readings from Holy Scripture** ..... Page 221

**Old Testament Reading** ..... Deuteronomy 7:6–9

<sup>6</sup>“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

**Epistle Reading** ..... Romans 8:28–39

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

<sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he

also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Choral Anthem

**Holy Gospel** ..... Matthew 13:44–52

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

**Responsory** ..... Page 221

## Children's Message

**Hymn of the Day** ..... #713 – From God Can Nothing Move Me



**The Sermon . . . . . Working Together for Our Good ~ Romans 8:28-30**

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

**Introduction**

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

**Predestination**

We often have a question about \_\_\_\_\_ .

God's desire is \_\_\_\_\_ .

God has called \_\_\_\_\_ .

Some are not saved \_\_\_\_\_ .

The unforgivable sin is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Foreknowledge**

God knew before \_\_\_\_\_ .

A part of God's foreknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ .

God knew His creatures \_\_\_\_\_ .

God knew He would send \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Working of Good**

Last week we mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ .

Good is work for those who \_\_\_\_\_ .

We love because \_\_\_\_\_ .

**What Does this Mean?**

"Life happens," and God \_\_\_\_\_ .

God is the \_\_\_\_\_ .

God loves us \_\_\_\_\_ .

By faith in Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Canticle (Te Deum) . . . . . Page 223**

**First Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings . . . . . Page 227**

*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.*

**Prayers . . . . . Page 227**

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

**✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠ ✠ ✠**

**Preface . . . . . Page 208**

**Sanctus . . . . . Page 208**

**Lord's Prayer . . . . . Page 209**

**The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini . . . . . Page 209**

**Angus Dei . . . . . Page 210**

**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 . . . . . #760 – What God Ordains Is Always Good  
#602 – The Gifts Christ Freely Gives  
#765 - God Moves in a Mysterious Way**

**Post-Communion Canticle - Nunc Dimittis . . . . . Page 211**

**Post-Communion Collect . . . . . Page 212**

**Benediction . . . . . Page 212**

**Closing Hymn . . . . . #818 - In Thee Is Gladness**