

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 27, 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 ..... #900 - *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*  
Confession and Absolution ..... Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit ..... Page 186

*Ps. 2: 6-7; Ps. 117; antiphon: Ps. 115:8*

But we will | bless the LORD\*  
from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the LORD!  
As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.  
I will tell of | the decree.\*  
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."  
Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*  
Extol him, all | peoples!  
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\*  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. | Praise the LORD!  
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.  
But we will | bless the LORD\*  
from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the LORD!

Kyrie ..... Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis ..... Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day ..... Page 189

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading ..... Page 190

*Isaiah 51:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Gradual ..... Page 190

*Ps. 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle Reading ..... Page 190

*Romans 11:33—12:8*

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!  
<sup>34</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"  
<sup>35</sup>"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"  
<sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.  
<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

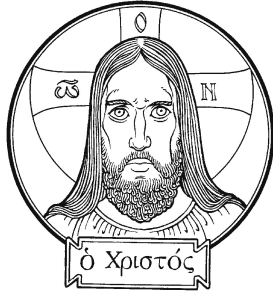
Choral Anthem

Alleluia . . . . . Page 190

Holy Gospel. . . . . Page 190

Matthew 16:13-20

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." 20Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.



Creed. . . . . Page 191/192

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day. . . . . #645 – Built on the Rock

The Sermon. . . . . Our God Is a Big God ~ Romans 11:33-12:8

Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabs writings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Perhaps you have heard \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Mind of God

About God we know \_\_\_\_\_ .

We must recognize \_\_\_\_\_ .

Paul expresses God's giving as \_\_\_\_\_ .

An Appeal to Sanctification

Sanctification is \_\_\_\_\_ .

We are not to conform to \_\_\_\_\_ .

We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ .

Our Role as a Member of the Church

He says we are to give \_\_\_\_\_ .

We are to come together as \_\_\_\_\_ .

We are to work together for \_\_\_\_\_ .

What Does This Mean?

God is far \_\_\_\_\_ .

God does \_\_\_\_\_ .

Who is running \_\_\_\_\_ .

Because God is so much greater \_\_\_\_\_ .

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Offertory . . . . . Page 192

Offering & Prayer of the Church . . . . . Page 193

*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.*

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠ ✠ ✠

Preface . . . . . Page 194

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus . . . . . Page 195

Lord's Prayer . . . . . Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. . . . . Page 197

Agnus Dei & Distribution. . . . . Page 198/199

*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 . . . . . #783 – Take My Life and Let It Be

#722 - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

#850 - God of Grace and God of Glory

Nunc Dimittis . . . . . Page 199

Thanksgiving. . . . . Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus . . . . . Page 201

Benediction . . . . . Page 202

Closing Hymn . . . . . #718 - Jesus, Lead Thou On