

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 1, 2024

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 #665 - *Be Strong in the Lord*
Confession and Absolution Page 167

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 168

Ps. 51:7, 10-12 antiphon: Ps. 51:2

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
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.
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

Kyrie Page 168
Hymn of Praise (Gloria in Excelsis) Page 170
Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 172

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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 172

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you...

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children...

Gradual Page 172

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 Page 172

Ephesians 6:10-20

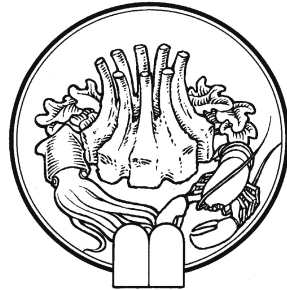
¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 173

Mark 7:14-23

14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." 17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #566 – *By Grace I'm Saved*

The Sermon **Strong in the Lord** ~ Ephesians 6:10-20

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), just want to follow along? Visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Paul set out in this letter to _____.

Our Battle

Our battle is against _____.

Our battle is against _____.

Our battle is against _____.

Our Armor

The first line of defense is our _____.

Next, we put on the _____.

Being surrounded and clothed we _____.

Having our bodies covered _____.

The last piece of defensive armor is _____.

Finally, Paul mentions our only offensive weapon _____.

Our Supply Line

Our Lord supplies us through _____.

Our Lord speaks to us through _____.

What Does This Mean?

God never promised _____.

Even though we continue _____.

While we remain _____.

This morning _____.

Creed Page 174/175

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 175

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.

Offertory Page 176

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

Preface Page 177

It is truly good, 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 178

Lord's Prayer & The Words of Our Lord Page 179

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 180

Distribution Page 181

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible. If you have any questions, please speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #664 – *Fight the Good Fight*

#666 - *O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe*

#569 - *In Adam We Have All Been One*

#587 - *I Know My Faith Is Founded*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 181

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction Page 183

Closing Hymn #668 - *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You*