

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ September 10, 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 ..... #868 - *Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

Confession and Absolution ..... Page 167

### ✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit ..... Page 168

*Ps. 92: 1-4; antiphon: Ps. 92:5*

How great are your works, | O LORD!\*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*

to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,\*

and your faithful- | ness by night,

to the music of the lute | and the harp,\*

to the melody | of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;\*

at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.

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.

How great are your works, | O LORD!\*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

Kyrie ..... Page 168

Hymn of Praise (Gloria In Excelsis) ..... Page 170

Salutation & Collect of the Day ..... Page 172

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

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 Reading ..... Page 172

*Romans 13:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?

Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) ..... Page 173

Holy Gospel. .... Page 173

*Matthew 18:1-20*

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little

ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup>“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**Children’s Message**

Hymn of the Day . . . . . #820 – *My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker*

The Sermon. . . . . **Owe No One Anything Except to Love ~ Romans 13:1-10**  
*Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

Justification is \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

**The Purpose of Government**

The purpose of government is \_\_\_\_\_ .

When we disobey government \_\_\_\_\_ .

When we do what is right \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

God rules us \_\_\_\_\_ .

We are to support government with \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Love is the Summary of the Commandments**

The first three commandments \_\_\_\_\_ .

The last seven commandments \_\_\_\_\_ .

Love is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**What Does This Mean?**

We are reminded again that \_\_\_\_\_ .

God has given \_\_\_\_\_ .

Our freedom \_\_\_\_\_ .

God has provided \_\_\_\_\_ .

Keep in mind \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Creed . . . . . Page 174/175

New Member Reception: Paul Guinn, Todd and Rebecca Pfenning, Megan Williamson, Craig Hooper, Sheila, Isabel, Alex and Eleanora Vaz.

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.*

Offering & Offertory . . . . . Page 176

Preface . . . . . **✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠ ✠ ✠** Page 177

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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving . . . . . Page 178

Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord . . . . . Page 179

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei . . . . . Page 180

Distribution . . . . . Page 181

*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 . . . . . #579 – *The Law of God Is Good and Wise*  
#605 - *Father Welcomes*  
#864 - *Shepherd of Tender Youth*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) . . . . . Page 181

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction . . . . . Page 183

Closing Hymn . . . . . #844 - *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*