

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ September 17, 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 .....#533 - *Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure*

Confession and Absolution ..... Page 167

### ✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit ..... Page 168

*Ps. 143: 1-2; antiphon: Ps. 143:9*

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!\*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!\*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,\*

for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

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.

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!\*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Kyrie ..... Page 168

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

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

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading ..... Page 172

*Genesis 50:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this

command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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 14:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Choral Anthem

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

Holy Gospel ..... Page 173

*Matthew 18:21-35*

<sup>21</sup> Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was

brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.<sup>25</sup> And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.<sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'<sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.<sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'<sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'<sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.<sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'<sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.<sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



**Children's Message**

Hymn of the Day . . . . . #501 – *Come Down, O Love Divine*

The Sermon . . . Confess, Believe and Live: Jesus is Lord ~ Romans 14:1-12  
 Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: [rabswritings.blogspot.com](http://rabswritings.blogspot.com) or Pastor Mendez's blog at: [pastormendez.blogspot.com](http://pastormendez.blogspot.com).

**Introduction**

The best way to teach is \_\_\_\_\_ .

Paul and Peter were telling us \_\_\_\_\_ .

Paul is now telling us \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Old Testament and the Gospel**

The Old Testament reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Gospel reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ .

Our text \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Concerning Those Weaker in Faith**

We normal think of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Many people do things \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Concerning Church Traditions**

Paul is not speaking about \_\_\_\_\_ .

The "bottom line" \_\_\_\_\_ .

**The Final Judgment**

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

The "bottom line" then is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**What Does This Mean?**

We have to admit that \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

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

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_ .

We all \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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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.*

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 . . . . . #747 – *No Saint on Earth Lives Life to Self Alone*  
 #843 - *"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"*  
 #611 - *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

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

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

Closing Hymn . . . . . #545 - *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*