

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 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 #769 - *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*
Confession and Absolution Page 167

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 168

Ps. 28:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: Ps. 28:8

The LORD is the strength of his | people,*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the
pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,*
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.
Blessèd | be the LORD!*

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and | I
am helped;*

my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.
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.
The LORD is the strength of his | people,*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

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

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

James 2:1-10, 14-18

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it....

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 173

Mark 7:24-37

²⁴ From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter."



³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #797 – Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him

The Sermon Faith and Works ~ James 2:1-10, 14-18

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

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul writes _____.

In our text, James says _____.

Section One

We might ask, _____.

God does not show _____.

Section Two

The royal law says, _____.

To keep us from thinking we have kept the royal law _____.

Section Three

James gives us a practical example _____.

Indeed, _____.

It is almost as if we _____.

Faith without works _____.

Faith must _____.

What Does This Mean?

God does not _____.

With the help of the Holy Spirit _____.

The song, _____.

Paul and James help us _____.

For it is _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

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 #852 – O God of Mercy, God of Might

#844 - Lord of All Nations Grant Me Grace

#848 - Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

#768 - To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 181

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction Page 183

Closing Hymn #524 - How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds