

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

21434 East Hardy Rd., Houston, TX 77073
www.stmatthewlcms.com

281-443-2304 or 281-443-8463
office.smlcw@gmail.com

Senior Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs
pastorbogs.smlcw@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 832-515-4830

Associate Pastor:
The Rev. Arturo G. Mendez
pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 832-883-1705

**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 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 #803 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Confession and Absolution. Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 61: 10; antiphon: Ps. 146:2

I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.
I will greatly rejoice | in the LORD;*
my soul shall exult | in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of sal- | vation;*
he has covered me with the robe of | righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful | headdress,*
and as a bride adorns herself | with her jewels.
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.
I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (Gloria in Excelsis). Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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 156

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Gradual Page 156

Ps. 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle Reading Page 156

Philippians 4:4-13

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156

Holy Gospel Page 157

Matthew 22:1-14

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his

farm, another to his business,⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'¹⁰ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.



¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.¹² And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #694 - *Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower*

The Sermon Practice Contentment ~ *Philippians 4:4-13*

Miss a sermon visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

I believe that one of our _____:

But what about _____:

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Paul encourages us _____:

Paul reminds us _____:

With forgiveness _____:

Think Good Thoughts

Perhaps you have heard it said _____:

One of our first thoughts _____:

And again, God will give us _____:

Be Content

Finally, Paul encourages us to be _____:

Paul reminds us _____:

Paul says that the secret _____:

What Does This Mean?

First, as usual _____:

Second, Paul’s words _____:

And now, God gives _____:

Rejoice in _____:

Other Notes or Questions for the Pastor:

Creed Page 158

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 159

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 159

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ *Service of the Word* ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Preface Page 160

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 and Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord Page 162

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

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.

Distribution Hymns . . #788 - *Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness*
 #633 - *At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing*
 #632 - *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #918 - *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*