

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

The Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs, Pastor

The Rev. Arturo G. Mendez, Associate Pastor

21434 E. Hardy Rd., Houston, TX 77073 281-443-2304 or 281-443-8463
www.stmatthewlcms.com office.smlcw@gmail.com

Pastor Bogs' Contact Info: *Pastor Mendez's Contact Info:*
Cell Phone: 832-515-4830 Cell Phone: 832-883-1705
pastorbogs.smlcw@gmail.com pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com

The Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost November 12, 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 #487 - *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*
Confession and Absolution Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 186
Ps. 84: 1, 9-12; antiphon: Ps. 84:3

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

How lovely is your | dwelling place,*

O | LORD of hosts!

Behold our shield, | O God;*

look on the face of your a- | nointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- | rightly.

O | LORD of hosts,*

blessèd is the one who | trusts in 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.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Gradual Page 190

Rev. 7:14b; Ps. 84:5

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*

in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle Reading Page 190

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia Page 190

Matthew 25:1-13

1“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ 10And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #516 – Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

The Sermon Comfort One Another ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

This morning we celebrate _____.

In our Old Testament reading _____.

What These Words Meant to the Thessalonians

Paul believed that Christ’s return _____.

Paul refers to those who have departed _____.

Some of the Thessalonians were anxious because _____.

What These Words Mean to Us

We believe death is _____.

We believe this because _____.

At Christ’s second coming _____.

Thus, we believe, teach and confess _____.

Our Response to These Words

Some have suggested stages of death as _____.

We are _____, but we are also _____.

We respond by _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

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.

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠ ✠ ✠

Verdaderamente es digno, justo y saludable que en todo tiempo y en todo lugar te demos gracias, Señor santo, Padre todopoderoso, Dios eterno, por Jesucristo, Señor nuestro, que en este día venciste la muerte y el sepulcro y por su gloriosa resurrección nos abrió el camino a la vida eterna. Por tanto, con los ángeles y arcángeles y con toda la compañía del cielo alabamos y magnificamos tu glorioso nombre, alabándote siempre y diciendo:

Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

#675 - Oh, What Their Joy

#334 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You