

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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*The Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 19, 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 #663 - *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*
Confession and Absolution. Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 143: 2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: Ps. 143:1

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.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.
I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!
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.
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This is the Feast) Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 156

Zephaniah 1:7-16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Gradual Page 156

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 156

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one

another up, just as you are doing.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156

Holy Gospel Page 157

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #508 - *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*

The Sermon

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

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 #733 - *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#411 - *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

#668 - *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #665 - *Be Strong in the Lord*