

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Last Sunday of the Church Year ~ November 24, 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 #668 - Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You
Confession and Absolution. Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 39: 4-5a, 7-8, 12a; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13b NIV

We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.
O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days,*
let me know how fleeting | I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,*
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.
And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*

My hope | is in you.
Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!
Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear | to my cry,*
hold not your peace | at my tears!
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.
We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 156

Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

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. Page 156

Jude 20-25

²⁰But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse Page 156

Holy Gospel Page 157

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴[Jesus said:] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until



all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #336 – *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

The Sermon

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.

Other Notes or Questions for 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.

Offertory Page 159

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Sacrament* ✠ ✠ ✠

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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

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

Pax Domini & Agnus DeiPage 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. If you have any questions, please speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #680 – *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*
#658 - *Preserve Your Word, O Savior*
#663 - *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*
#506 - *Glory Be to God the Father*

Post-Communion Cantic (Thank the Lord)Page 164

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #816 - *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

Just a reminder our Thanksgiving Eve service schedule is Wednesday, November 27th at 12pm & 7:30pm w/ the Lord’s Supper. Please have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends and we hope that you will spend some of that with us here at St. Matthew during one of our Thanksgiving Eve services.

