

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Last Sunday of the Church Year November 26, 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 . . . . . #671 - *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*  
Confession and Absolution . . . . . Page 151

### ✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit . . . . . Page 152

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

In keeping with His promise 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!\*

For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my | fathers.

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.

In keeping with His promise 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 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 156

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation

of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading . . . . . Page 156

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

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 Corinthians 15:20-28*

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) . . . . . Page 156

Holy Gospel. . . . . Page 157

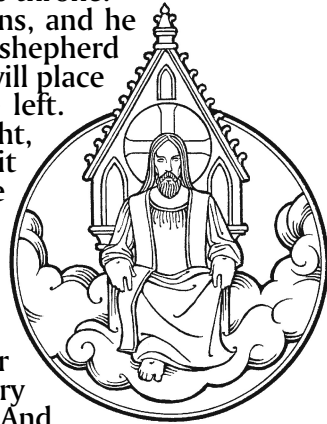
*Matthew 25:31-46*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



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Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day. . . . . #534 - Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

The Sermon. . . . . *Christ Has Been Raised from the Dead* – 1 Cor. 15:20-28

*Miss a sermon, want to follow along? Visit Pastor Bogs’ blog at [rabswritings.blogspot.com](http://rabswritings.blogspot.com) or Pastor Mendez’s blog at [pastormendez.blogspot.com](http://pastormendez.blogspot.com).*

Introduction

In a court of law \_\_\_\_\_ .

Witnesses of Jesus’ Resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus appeared to \_\_\_\_\_ .

Witnesses outside the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus Himself spoke \_\_\_\_\_ .

The change in the behavior of \_\_\_\_\_ .

We worship on \_\_\_\_\_ .

Christianity \_\_\_\_\_ .

Our calendar \_\_\_\_\_ .

*The Resurrection Demonstrates*

We have victory over \_\_\_\_\_ .

We have victory over \_\_\_\_\_ .

*What Does This Mean?*

We are free from \_\_\_\_\_ .

We have the promise of \_\_\_\_\_ .

*How Is This Done?*

This is done by \_\_\_\_\_ .

With the help of \_\_\_\_\_ .

*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.*

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 . . . . . #597 - Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

#639 - Wide Open Stands the Gates

#689 - Let Me Be Thine Forever

Post-Communion Canticle (*Thank the Lord*) . . . . . Page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction . . . . . Page 166

Closing Hymn . . . . . #673 - Jerusalem, My Happy Home