

June 25, 2023

(A)

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 12

**FIRST READING. Jeremiah 20:7-13**

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

**SECOND READING. Romans 6:1b-11**

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL. Matthew 10:24-39**

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



**SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, June 25, 2023**

"In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone."

**Welcome!**


We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages "all congregations to continue using masks for the time being." For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

**Heat Alert**

Please do not feel obligated to stand during the service if you are uncomfortable in the hot weather. Please keep well hydrated and wear cool, comfortable clothing throughout the summer months.

If you missed last week's sermon, it is available on our website.

**St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Organist: Lily Jasinskas .....

Confession and Forgiveness From Sundays & Seasons, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have hurt our community.**  
**We have squandered your blessings.**  
**We have hoarded your bounty.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have failed to be honest.**  
**We have lacked the courage to speak.**  
**We have spoken falsely.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 69:1-18 – Tune: 597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (Melita)

To you, O God, I raise my cry:  
Lord, answer me! In love draw nigh.

Reader: Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I am sinking in deep mire, where there is no foothold. I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

Let none who call upon your name  
Be turned aside or put to shame.

Those who hate me without cause are more in number than the hairs of my head. I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children. It is zeal for your house that has consumed me. The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

Let me your great compassion see.  
In goodness, Lord, deliver me!

When I humbled myself with fasting, they insulted me for doing so. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword among them.

To you, O God, I raise my cry:  
Lord, answer me! In love draw nigh.

Rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from those who hate me and from the deep waters. Don't let the flood sweep over me; don't let me drown in the depths or sink into the grave.

Let none who call upon your name  
Be turned aside or put to shame.

Answer me, Lord, in the goodness of your constant love; in your great compassion turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant. Draw near to me and redeem me.

Let me your great compassion see.  
In goodness, Lord, deliver me!

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

July 16	6:30 p.m. – Outdoor Evening Worship
August 13	6:30 p.m. – Outdoor Evening Worship
August 27	2:00 p.m. – Golf at Freedom Oaks, dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
Holy Communion Setting 10 – Page 203

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness ..... Printed  
Gathering Song ..... 876 Let the Whole  
Creation Cry

Greeting ..... Page 203  
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading ..... Jeremiah 20:7-13  
Psalm 69:1-18 ..... Printed in bulletin  
Second Reading ..... Romans 6:1b-11  
Gospel Acclamation ..... Page 205  
"Glory to you, O Lord."  
Gospel ..... Matthew 10:24-39  
"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day ..... 709 When Our Song  
Says Peace

Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Response ..... "hear our prayer."  
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offertory Prayer ..... Printed  
Great Thanksgiving ..... Page 206  
Holy, Holy, Holy ..... Page 207  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer ..... Page 208  
Communion  
"Lamb of God..." ..... Page 208  
Communion Hymns ..... 798, 781  
Prayer after communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song ..... 769 If You But Trust in God  
to Guide You

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
Response: Thanks be to God.