

FIRST READING. Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

SECOND READING. Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL. Luke 12:49-56

‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?



Sunday, August 14, 2022

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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“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. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

COVID-19

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.

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

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario •
email: stmatts@cogeco.net • stmatthewswelland.com
Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Home Phone289-820-7713
Emailbartsterc@gmail.com
Council Chairperson: Jennifer Rusk Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Confession and Forgiveness
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, whose steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. Amen.

Psalm 82 - Tune 883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Old Hundredth)
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.

Reader: God takes his stand in the council of heaven; in the midst of the gods he gives judgment.

Arise, O God, and rule the world.
Let evil from its throne be hurled.

"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked? Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy; rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the power of the wicked."

Arise, O God; your pow'r make known,
And take the nations for your own.

They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; all the nations of the earth are shaken.

Arise, O God, and rule the world.
Let evil from its throne be hurled.

"Now I say to you, 'You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you. Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"

Arise, O God; your pow'r make known,
And take the nations for your own.

Dates to Remember

August 21 6:30 p.m. - Worship on the Lawn, a vespers style service led by Dianne Yungblut. The format will be similar to our Worship on the Lawn services in 2021. There will be no Sunday morning worship service August 21.

Please bring a lawn chair. We hope you can join us for a relaxing time, worshipping on the lawn at St. Matthew's!



All types of food donations are welcome at Open Arms Mission.
Donation focus for August: Crackers

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 10 - Page 203
Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING
Confession and ForgivenessPrinted
Gathering Song .511 Thy Strong Word
GreetingPage 203
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First ReadingJeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82.....Printed in bulletin
Second ReadingHebrews 11:29-12:2
Gospel AcclamationPage 205
"Glory to you, O Lord."
GospelLuke 12:49-56
"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon
Hymn of the Day789 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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

MEAL
Offertory Prayer
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 206
Holy, Holy, HolyPage 207
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's PrayerPage 208
Communion
"Lamb of God..."Page 208
Communion Hymns580, 626
Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING
Blessing
Sending Song ...805 Lead On, O King Eternal!

Dismissal:
Go in peace. Love your neighbour.
Response: Thanks be to God.