

July 9, 2023

(A)

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 14

**FIRST READING.** Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you.  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**SECOND READING.** Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

**GOSPEL.** Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,  
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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.

**"COME UNTO ME"**



**Sunday, July 9, 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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## Confession and Forgiveness

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*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)

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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 145 – Tune: 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (Fred til Bod)

*Reader:* Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is beyond understanding.

I will praise you, God my King; | Ev'ry day my thanks I'll raise.  
What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim your mighty acts.

Let the whole world join to sing | Songs of your exalted praise.  
They will tell about all your goodness and sing about your kindness.

Let all creatures, great and small, | Praise the Lord, who cares for all!  
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

I will praise you, God my King; | Ev'ry day my thanks I'll raise.  
All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

Let the whole world join to sing | of your exalted praise.  
They will speak of the glory of your royal power and tell of your might, so that everyone will know your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

Let all creatures, great and small, | Praise the Lord, who cares for all!

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

Both Outdoor Evening Worship events feature a simple order of worship and singing, and are in addition to Sunday morning worship. If there is rain or poor air quality due to smoke, these events are cancelled. Please bring a lawn chair.

August 27 – Golf Tournament at Freedom Oaks Golf Course, Dunnville;  
Tee-off 2:00 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Golf and Perch or Golf and Dinner: \$55.00 (includes 9 holes, cart and dinner)  
Dinner only (Perch or Steak): \$25.00.  
Youth golf free! Burger or Chicken Fingers: \$10.00; Perch or Steak: \$25.00

## Evangelical Lutheran Worship

### Holy Communion Setting 10 – Page 203

#### Prelude and Announcements

#### GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness ..... Printed  
Gathering Song ..... 434 Jesus Shall Reign  
Greeting ..... Page 203  
Prayer of the Day

#### WORD

First Reading ..... Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14 ..... Printed in bulletin  
Second Reading ..... Romans 7:15-25a  
Gospel Acclamation ..... Page 205  
"Glory to you, O Lord."  
Gospel ..... Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
"Praise to you, O Christ."  
Sermon  
Hymn of the Day ..... 608 Softly and Tenderly  
Jesus Is Calling  
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 ..... 790, 777  
Prayer after communion

#### SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song ..... 697 Just a Closer  
Walk with Thee

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