

July 16, 2023

(A) Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 15
FIRST READING. Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

SECOND READING. Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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, July 16, 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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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.

Psalms 65 – Tune: 879 We Praise You, O God (Kremser)

Reader: Praise is due to you, O God; and to you shall vows be performed.

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

Happy are those whom you choose, whom you bring to live in your sanctuary.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. You
are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our Guide you have been.

You calm the roaring of the seas and the noise of the waves; you calm the uproar
of the peoples. The whole world stands in awe of the great things you have
done.

When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

You send abundant rain on the plowed fields and soak them with water; you
soften the soil with showers and cause the young plants to grow. You crown the
year with your bounty.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. We shall
be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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

Dates to Remember

Today	6:30 p.m. – Outdoor Sunday Evening Worship. Bring a lawn chair.
July 30	11:00 a.m. – A summer worship celebration with story and song
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.

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
Tickets available until August 20 from Jenn, Sylvia or Sinikka.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 10 – Page 203

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and ForgivenessPrinted
Gathering Song524 What Is This Place
GreetingPage 203
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingIsaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65Printed in bulletin
Second ReadingRomans 8:1-11
Gospel AcclamationPage 205
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelMatthew 13:1-9, 18-23
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day679 For the Fruit
of All Creation

Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“**Your mercy is great.**”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering PrayerPrinted
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 206
Holy, Holy, HolyPage 207
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s PrayerPage 208
Communion
“Lamb of God...”Page 208
Communion Hymns554, 670
Prayer after communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song547 Sent Forth by
God’s Blessing

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