

July 23, 2023

(A)Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 16

FIRST READING. Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

SECOND READING. Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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 23, 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



57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746
email: stmatts@cogeco.net • website: stmatthewswelland.com

Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Home Phone289-820-7713
Emailbartsterc@gmail.com

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk
Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

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 86:11-17 – Tune: 640 Our Father, by Whose Name

Teach me your way, O Lord, | That I may fear your name.

Reader: Give me an undivided heart to revere your name, and I will walk in your truth.

Teach me your way, O Lord, | Nor let me come to shame.
The arrogant rise up against me, O Lord; a band of violent men seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.

Your grace and mercy still abound.

Turn to me and have mercy on me; strengthen me and save me, because I serve
you just as my mother did.

Your praise shall from my lips resound, | For steadfast love with you is found.

For you, O Lord, are a merciful and loving God, always patient, always kind and faithful.

Teach me your way, O Lord, | That I may fear your name.

I praise you with all my heart, O Lord my God; I will glorify your name forever.

Teach me your way, O Lord, | Nor let me come to shame.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be
ashamed, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Your grace and mercy still abound.

How great is your constant love for me! You have saved me from the grave itself.

Your praise shall from my lips resound, | For steadfast love with you is found.

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

Dates to Remember

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

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Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and ForgivenessPrinted
Gathering Song ...842 Oh, Worship the King
GreetingPage 203
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingIsaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17.....Printed in bulletin
Second ReadingRomans 8:12-25
Gospel AcclamationPage 205
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelMatthew 13:24-30, 36-43
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day550 On What Has Now
Been Sown

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 Hymns680, 465
Prayer after communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song631 Love Divine,
All Loves Excelling

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