

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST DAY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Saturday, July 3, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 4, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

***Welcome to worship at St. Matthew!** To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

***Assisted hearing devices and large print orders of service** are available from the ushers.*

***If you have a prayer request**, please submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

***Parents with small children** are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

***Thank you** for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

+ CONNECT +

(Please rise)

NATIONAL ANTHEM: “The Star Spangled Banner”

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming

Whose broad stripes and bright stars Through the perilous fight

O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air

**Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?**

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION:

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

**Before you, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise To you, our king!**

**Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,
And bow before The Crucified.**

L: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. For peace and harmony between nations,

C: Let us pray to the Lord.

L: For bountiful harvests and an end to malnutrition and hunger,

C: Let us pray to the Lord.

**The nation you have blest May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land-
Gifts of your hand--Our thanks we pay.**

**May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grateful song.**

L: For wise leaders, alert armed forces, and compassionate first responders,
C: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

L: For the bold proclamation of the gospel and compassionate care for the poor,
C: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

“God Bless Our Native Land”

**God bless our native land; Firm may it ever stand Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save By thy great might.**

**So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies, On whom we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry: God save the state!**

L: For human rights, freedom, and justice in our nation and for people everywhere,
C: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

L: For human dignity and ample clothing and shelter,
C: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

L: For new insights into the workings of God’s good creation
C: **Let us pray to the Lord.**

“America, the Beautiful”

**O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And ev’ry grace divine!**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

(The Prayer of Confession is from George Washington's prayer journal.)

L: Most merciful and gracious God, I present myself before thy Divine majesty, beseeching thee to accept of my humble thanks for this day.

C: **Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit.**

L: Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the Gospel. Give me repentance from dead works.

C: **Pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto thyself, the God of my salvation.**

L: Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ,

C: **That living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the just unto eternal life. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down;

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

(The Prayer of the Day is George Washington's Prayer For The Country, 1783.)

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God:

C: **We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection;**

L: That thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government,

C: **And entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large.**

L: And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy

C: **And to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and [peacefulness] of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion,**

L: Without whose example we can never hope to be a happy nation.

C: **Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter six.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: “God of Our Fathers”

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with heav’n-born love and grace
Until at last we meet before your face.**

MESSAGE – Pastor Keith Brutlag

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

10:00 a.m. only –

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VERSES: “America, the Beautiful”

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress

A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!

America! America! God mend thine ev’ry flaw,

Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!

America! America! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

+ + +

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Saturday Lay Minister: Jim Geslin

Sunday:

Lay Minister: Lisa Neaderhiser

Trumpet: Andrew Wagner

Ushers: Davis Team

Power Point: Aidan Neaderhiser

Acolyte: Josh Neaderhiser

Lector: Marilyn Kirk