

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, July 24, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING HYMN: “God Himself is Present” – Blue Hymnal #206

God himself is present; Let us now adore him

And in awe appear before him.

God is in his temple; All within keep silence,

Prostrate lie with deepest rev’rence.

Him alone God we own, Him, our God and Savior; Praise his name forever!

God himself is present; Hear the harps resounding;

See the hosts the throne surrounding!

“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,

Songs of saints and angels blending.

Bow your ear To us here; Hear, O Christ, the praises That your Church now raises.

Light of light eternal, All things penetrating,

For your rays our soul is waiting,

As the tender flowers, Willingly unfolding,

To the sun their faces holding:

Even so Would we do, Light from you obtaining, Strength to serve you gaining.

Come, celestial Being, Make our hearts your dwelling,

Ev’ry carnal thought dispelling.

By your Holy Spirit Sanctify us truly,

Teaching us to love you only.

Where we go Here below, Let us bow before you And in truth adore you.

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.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 136, part 1

L: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the God of gods.

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

Men & Boys: His love endures forever.

L: To him who alone does great wonders,

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: Who by his understanding made the heavens,

Women & Girls: His love endures forever.

L: Who spread out the earth upon the waters,

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: Who made the great lights—

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: The sun to govern the day,

Men & Boys: His love endures forever.

L: The moon and stars to govern the night;

Women & Girls: His love endures forever.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Our God is big and He is close. He is also holy. In His holiness, He cannot tolerate sin. In Jesus, He calls us to repent of our sins and receive His forgiveness. Let's do that now.

C: Lord, we have indeed sinned against you by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have sinned against our neighbors by not loving them as we love ourselves. We don't deserve your grace and mercy, but we put our faith in Jesus, who has won your grace and mercy for us. So in His name and because of His perfect life and innocent death, we ask for forgiveness. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 136, part 2

L: To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: And brought Israel out from among them

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: With a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

Men & Boys: His love endures forever.

L: To him who divided the Red Sea asunder

Women & Girls: His love endures forever.

L: And brought Israel through the midst of it,

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: He remembered us in our low estate

ALL: His love endures forever.

L: And freed us from our enemies.
Men & Boys: His love endures forever.

L: He gives food to every creature.
Women & Girls: His love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the God of heaven.
ALL: His love endures forever!

SONG OF PRAISE: “Let Us, With Glad Heart and Mind”
Let us, with glad heart and mind, Praise the LORD, for He is kind:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us blaze His Name abroad, For of gods He is the God:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

He with all-commanding might Filled the new-made world with light:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living He does feed; His full hand supplies their need:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

His beloved people blessed In the wasteful wilderness:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

He has with a loving eye Looked upon our misery:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us songs of praise put forth His high majesty and worth:
For His mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.
C: Almighty God, you are bigger than we could ever imagine and closer than we could ever fully comprehend. Open our eyes of faith today to see you more clearly that we might more fully believe and walk more faithfully in your will. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I

bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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!

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY: “O Fathom the Depths”

Oh, fathom the depths of the power of God:

All nations bow under His chastening rod.

The waves rise and rumble, obeying His call.

The valleys rise up; mountains tremble and fall.

Oh, ponder the reach of the love of the Lord,

He’s blessing all peoples with mercy outpoured.

The heavenly bodies attest to His care,

They’re hinting at glorious beauty most rare.

Oh, measure the goodness that man cannot know:

His shimmering promise through radiant bow.

As each generation in turn testifies –

Our God came to earth and returned to the skies.

**So, witness the covenant God will uphold:
In age after age, watch the wonder unfold.
Strong Jesus, the Son, drowns each sin in His blood,
He's raising us up in His life-giving flood**

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MESSAGE: "Your God Is Too Small and Too Distant " – Pastor Bill Hugo

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.

+ EMPOWER +

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS *(Sunday Only)*

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 BLESSING

CLOSING SONG: "We Bow Down"

1. You are Lord of cre - a - tion and Lord of my
2. You are King of cre - a - tion and King of my
life, life, King of the land and the sea.
life, life, King of the land and the sea.

You were— Lord of the heav - ens be - fore there was—
 You were— King of the heav - ens be - fore there was—

time, And Lord of all— lords You will be!
 time, And King of all— kings You will be!

We bow— down— and we wor - ship You,——
 We bow— down— and we crown You the——

Lord. We bow— down— and we wor - ship You,——
 King. We bow— down— and we crown You the——

Lord. We bow— down— and we wor - ship You,——
 King. We bow— down— and we crown You the——

Lord, King, Lord of all— lords You will be!——
 King of all— kings You will be!——

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Saturday:

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold

Sunday:

Lay Minister: Louise Roberts

Ushers: Nelson Team

Power Point: Caitlin Kyseth

Acolyte: Ben Kretschman

Lector: Bob Lundholm