

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 28, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Love Excelling” – Blue Hymnal #286

Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;

Let us all in thee inherit; Let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty, to deliver; Let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,

Pray and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee,

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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.

OPENING SENTENCES:

L: Lord, turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

C: Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

L: The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

C: I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.

ALL: Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

L: Direct my footsteps according to your word;

C: Let no sin rule over me.

L: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

C: Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

L: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

C: Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

L: Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

ALL: Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Lord, you have forgiven me completely. And you have forgiven others completely. And you call all of us to forgive as we have been forgiven. That's hard, Lord. Sometimes it's hard for me to forgive myself. I become way too critical. Sometimes it's hard for me to forgive others. I become way too judgmental and full of revenge. Show me again, Lord, the power of your reckless love. Clothe me with robes of righteousness and empower me to forgive myself and others. Make me full of Christ-like compassion and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "Robe of Righteousness"

I am covered over with the robe of righteousness

That Jesus gives to me (gives to me)

I am covered over with the precious blood of Jesus

And He lives in me (lives in me)

Oh what a joy it is to know my Heavenly Father loves me so;

He gives to me my Jesus.

When He looks at me He sees not what I used to be

But He sees Jesus. (Repeat song)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Lord, you promise to clothe your disciples with power from on high. Dress us today in your holy armor. Prepare us for a life of love, faith and hope. Clothe us with that wardrobe that sends us out into your mission field, being known by love, living by faith and being a voice of hope. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you....Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not

forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE: "Thy Word"

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet— and a light un-to my path. path. When I feel a-fraid,— think I've lost my way,— Still You're there right be-side— me. And noth-ing will I fear— as— long as You are near,— Please be near me to the end." The score includes first and second endings for the phrase "light un-to my path." and a CODA section. The piece concludes with the instruction "D.C. al CODA" and a final measure of the CODA.

**Now I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side
And I will love you to the end. REFRAIN:**

("Thy Word" by Michael W. Smith, copyright 1984 and 1992 Meadowgreen Music Co., CCLI Lic. #921494.)

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-20

L: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

C: **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

L: Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

C: In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

L: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

C: With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

L: Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL:

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord!


Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY: "The Battle Belongs to the Lord"


VERSE



Dm C/D Dm

1. In heav-en-ly ar - mor we'll en - ter the land, — The
2. When the pow-er of dark - ness comes in — like a flood, — The
3. When your en - e-my press - es in hard, — do not fear, — The


3 C/D Dm



C/D Dm

bat - tle be - longs — to the Lord. — No
bat - tle be - longs — to the Lord. — He's
bat - tle be - longs — to the Lord. — Take

5 C/D Dm



C/D Dm

weap-on that's fash - ioned a - gainst — us will stand, — }
raised up a stand - ard, the pow'r — of His blood, — } The
cour-age, my friend, — your re - demp - tion is near, — }

7 C/D Dm CHORUS C/E
 bat - tle be - longs_ to the Lord.____ We sing
 9 F C B♭ C F
 glo - ry, hon - or,
 11 C Dm C/E F C
 pow - er and strength_ to the Lord.____ We sing glo - ry,
 14 B♭ C F F/C C Dm
 hon - or, pow - er and strength_ to the Lord.____

("Battle Belongs to the Lord" by Jamie Owens-Collins, copyright 1984 Fairhill Music, CCLI License #921494)

MESSAGE: "How to Dress Like a Christian" – 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 +

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 HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" – Blue Hymnal #298

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
 He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'er taken

**The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabbath Lord, And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold

Altar Guild: Pat & Duane Rosenberg