

# **THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Saturday, September 4, 2021 – 5:30 p.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.**

## **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L: To you, O LORD, I call;**

**C: My rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.**

**L: Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,**

**C: When I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary. Blessed be the LORD!**

**L: Heavenly Father,**

**C: From creation you have called your people to the work of worshipping you by serving others. Forgive us when our service lacks in zeal and diligence, when we give preference to ourselves over others, when we are less than fervent in spirit. Restore us to serving others with the sincere love with which you first loved us. To the glory of your holy name and for the sake of your Kingdom on earth as it will be lived in heaven. Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

**SONG OF PRAISE: Psalm of the Day - Psalm 146**

**L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, my soul!**

**C:** I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

**L:** Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

**C:** When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

**L:** Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

**C:** He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever.

**L:** He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free,

**C:** The LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

**L:** The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**ALL:** The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

### “I Will Celebrate”

Em Am  
I will cel-e-brate, — sing un-to the Lord, —

3 Bsus B7 Em  
I will sing to Him a new song.

5 Em Am D Gmaj<sup>7</sup>  
I will praise Him,

7 C B7 Em  
I will sing to Him a new song.

9 Am D Gmaj<sup>7</sup>  
I will praise Him,

11 C B7 Em  
I will sing to Him a new song.

13 Em Am  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

15 F#m7(4) B7 1. Em 2. Em  
hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah. lu - jah.

18 Em Am D Gmaj7 C B7 Em  
I will praise Him, I will sing to Him a new song.

22 Am D Gmaj7 C B7  
I will praise Him, I will sing to Him a

25 Em C B7 Em D.C.  
new song. I will sing to Him a new song.

28 Song Ending C B7 Em  
I will sing to Him a new song.

30 Bsus B Em  
I will sing to Him a new song!

("I Will Celebrate" by Linda Duvall, copyright 1982 Grace Fellowship, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

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

**L:** Let us pray.  
**C:** Gracious Lord, according to your mercy you call us to worship you with a life of service. Your grace gifts us for works of service, and your love motivates us to be your agents of mercy and grace in the face of all that is evil in this fallen world. Through your Word

**continually train us for the work of serving you by serving others, spurring one another on toward love and good works. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**GREETING TIME**

**+ NURTURE +**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: James 2:1-10, 14-18**

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it...What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**PRELUDE TO THE GOSPEL: "Open Our Eyes, Lord"**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,**

**To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. (Repeat song)**

*("Open Our Eyes, Lord" by Robert Cull, copyright 1976 Maranatha! Music. CCLI License #921494.)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

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

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly

talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**L:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ!

**RESPONSE: "Open Our Eyes, Lord"** (see p. 4)

**MESSAGE** – Pastor Keith Brutlag

**SONG OF THE DAY: "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"**

**Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose Ev'ry gift that you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.**

*("Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service", text copyright Oxford University Press, tune setting copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**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: "Forth In Your Name, O Lord"**  
**Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,**  
**You, only you, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.**

**The task your wisdom has assigned, Oh, let me cheerfully fulfill;**  
**In all my works your presence find And prove your good and perfect will.**

**You may I find at my right hand, Whose eyes see truly what I do,**  
**And labor on at your command And offer all my works to you.**

**Give me to bear your easy yoke And ev'ry moment watch and pray**  
**And still to things eternal look And hasten to your glorious day.**

**For you I joyously employ Whatever you in grace have giv'n;**  
**I run my course with even joy, I closely walk with you to heav'n.**

*("Forth In Your Name, O Lord, I Go", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

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## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Lay Minister: Jim Geslin**