

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

DCLC 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 25, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

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

+ CONNECT +

OPENING HYMN: “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” – Blue Hymnal #517

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By his angel host attended,
He shall fold me to his breast, There within his arms to rest.

(“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

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: Psalm 34:11-22

L: Come, my children, listen to me;

C: **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

L: Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,

C: **Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.**

L: Turn from evil and do good;

C: **Seek peace and pursue it.**

L: The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

C: **But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.**

L: The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;

C: **He delivers them from all their troubles.**

L: The LORD is close to the brokenhearted

C: **And saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

L: The righteous person may have many troubles,
C: **But the LORD delivers him from them all;**

L: He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.
C: **Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.**
ALL: **The LORD will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

SONG OF PRAISE: “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”
Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

REFRAIN: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, He who died, Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in. REFRAIN:

Jesus loves me, He will stay, Close beside me all the way
I will love Him when I die, He will take me home on high. REFRAIN:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

L: Let us pray.
C: **Gracious Lord, twenty years ago you led us to launch David’s Christian Learning Center. The prayers we prayed when it started have been answered in greater ways than we ever imagined. Empower us in faithfulness to continue to be a blessing to our students, their families and this community. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Hosea 14:4-8

“I will heal their waywardness. I will love them lavishly. My anger is played out. I will make a fresh start with Israel. He’ll burst into bloom like a crocus in the spring. He’ll put down deep oak tree roots, he’ll become a forest of oaks! He’ll become splendid—like a giant sequoia, his fragrance like a grove of cedars! Those who live near him will be blessed by him, be blessed and prosper like golden grain. Everyone will be talking about them, spreading their fame as the vintage children of God. Ephraim is finished with gods that are no-gods. From now on I’m the one who answers and satisfies him. I am like a luxuriant fruit tree. Everything you need is to be found in me.”

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 8:9-17

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won’t know what we’re talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God’s terms. It stands to reason, doesn’t it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he’ll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When

God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

L: The Word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter ten.
 C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.
 C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

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MESSAGE: “Following Jesus into Child-Like Faith” – 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.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS & FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: “God Loves Me Dearly”

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

REFRAIN: Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in slav’ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God’s love was working To make me free. **REFRAIN:**

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer
He sent forth Jesus and set me free. **REFRAIN:**

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. **REFRAIN:**

Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. **REFRAIN:**

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Lay Minister: Bob Nehring