

# **THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Saturday, August 6, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, August 7, 2022 – 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!*

*We ask that all guests sign a yellow attendance card located in the pew rack, and then please hand the card to the pastor as you leave the worship service.*

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

*If you have a prayer request, please write it out on one of the green prayer cards located in the pew rack, and then 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 +**

**OPENING HYMN: “How Firm a Foundation” – Blue Hymnal #411**

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,**

**Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!**

**What more can he say than to you he has said**

**Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,**

**For I am your God and will still give you aid;**

**I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,**

**Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,**

**My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.**

**The flames will not hurt you; I only design**

**Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.**

**Throughout all their lifetime my people will prove**

**My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;**

**And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,**

**Like lambs they will still in my bosom be borne.**

*(“How Firm a Foundation”, setting copyright 1967 The Bethany press, 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.

**CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

L: From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind

C: **From his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—**

L: He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

**“Open Our Eyes, Lord”**

O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see  
O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

Je - sus, to reach out and  
lis - ten. O - pen our

1.  
touch eyes, Him, and say that we

2.  
love Him, Lord,

we want to see Je - sus.

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

L: Yes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. We want to see Jesus in all His glory and all His grace. We need that, Lord. So we come before you now in confession:

C: **Forgiving God, you know how easy it is for us to celebrate with joy the wonders of your love. Our music soars to the heavens in praise of you. Yet how often we have left our service to you as mere thoughts and intentions without fulfillment.**

- L: You ask us to be ready to serve you at any time, but we place our commitment on the "to do" list of life; we will do these things when we get to them.
- C: Forgive our hesitancy and our self-serving ways, O Lord. Heal us of the disease of seeking first our own comfort before we engage in acts of love, justice and mercy. Open our eyes and ears to the cries of those in need. Help us to give and also to receive ministries of love and reconciliation as we serve you with our whole hearts. Then our music and our worship will truly reflect your awesome and abundant love for us, Amen.**
- L: But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- C: To deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.**
- L: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
- C: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**
- ALL: May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

**SONG OF PRAISE: "My Faith Looks Trustingly" – Blue Hymnal #378**  
**My faith looks trustingly To Christ of Calvary,**  
**My Savior true! Lord, hear me while I pray,**  
**Take all my guilt away, Strengthen in ev'ry way My love for You!**

**May your rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,**  
**My zeal inspire; As you have died for me,**  
**My love, adoringly, Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,**  
**Oh, be my guide; Make darkness turn to day,**  
**Wipe sorrow's tears way, Nor let me ever stray From you aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream**  
**Rolls over me, Blest Savior, then in love Fear and distrust remove;**  
**Oh, bear me safe above, Redeemed and free!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

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

- L: Let us pray.
- C: Surprising God of mercy and love, thank you for calling to us this day. We praise you that you challenge us to show our faith in ministries of love, peace and justice, offering compassion to all in need. Open our hearts and minds today to hear your words of encouragement and challenge. Transform and enlarge our vision to be closer to yours. We offer this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **GREETING TIME**

**+ NURTURE +**

**10:00 a.m. only -**  
**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 15:1-6**

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE: "The God of Abraham Praise" – Blue Hymnal #450 (st. 1, 3, 4)**

**The God of Abr'am praise, Who reigns enthroned above;**

**Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.**

**Jehovah, great I Am! By earth and heav'n confessed;**

**I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.**

**The God of Abr'am praise, Whose all-sufficient grace**

**Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.**

**He deigns to call me friend; He calls himself my God.**

**And he shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.**

**He by himself has sworn; I on his oath depend.**

**I shall, on eagle wings upborne, To heav'n ascend.**

**I shall behold his face; I shall his pow'r adore**

**And sing the wonders of his grace Forevermore.**

**EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-16**

L: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel

C: **Brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings.**

L: And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch

C: **Was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away."**

L: For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah,

C: **When warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.**

L: By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. By faith Abraham,

C: **When called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.**

L: By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was

looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah,

**C: Who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.**

L: And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.

**C: Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12.

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

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

### **SONG OF THE DAY: “Be Thou My Vision”**

**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

*(“Be Thou My Vision”, arr. 1964 Abingdon Press, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)*

**MESSAGE: “When Vision is Transformed by 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.**

*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**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “The God of Abraham Praise” – Blue Hymnal #450 (st. 2, 5-9)**

**The God of Abr'am praise, At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys At his right hand.  
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,  
And him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.**

**Though nature's strength decay, And earth and hell withstand,  
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way At his command.  
The wat'ry deep I pass, With Jesus in my view,  
And through the howling wilderness My way pursue.**

**The goodly land I see, With peace and plenty blest;  
A land of sacred liberty And endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow, And oil and wine abound.  
And trees of life forever grow With mercy crowned.**

**There dwells the Lord our king, The Lord our righteousness,  
Triumphant o'er the world and sing, The Prince of Peace.  
On Zion's sacred height His kingdom he maintains  
And glorious with his saints in light Forever reigns.**

**The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,  
And “Holy, holy, holy!” cry, “Almighty King!  
Who was and is the same And evermore shall be:  
Jehovah, Father, great I Am! We Worship thee!**

The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high,  
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr’am’s God and mine! I join the Heav’nly lays;  
All might and majesty are thine And endless praise!

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Have No Fear, Little Flock”** – Blue Hymnal #410  
Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom; Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you in his love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,  
For he stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For he stays close beside you, In all things works with you; Thankful hearts raise to God!

*(“Have No Fear, Little Flock”, text and tune copyright 1973 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

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#### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**5:30 p.m. –**

**Lay Minister:** Jim Geslin

**Altar Guild:** Carol Sylwester

**10:00 a.m. -**

**Lay Minister:** Louise Roberts

**Ushers:** Alman Team

**Altar Guild:** Carol Sylwester

**Power Point:** Sean Allen

**Acolyte:** Aubree Allen

**Lector:** Cheryl Fristad