

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 26 & 29, 2021

Christ feeds us with himself and gives himself to us in the gospel.

Opening Hymn 230, “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Order of Service..... Common Service, Page 15

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the DayPsalm 71 (page 92)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse Page 18

GOSPEL LESSON

Apostles’ Creed Page 19

Hymn of the Day 382, “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

SERMON..... “Choose Whom You Will Serve” Joshua 24:1,2a,14-18

Hymn 355, “Take the World, but Give Me Jesus”

Closing Liturgy Page 25

Closing Hymn 356, “You Are the Way; through You Alone”

FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1,2a,14-18

Joshua calls to those who have been richly fed by the life-giving Word of the Lord and who have seen in God’s mighty and saving acts his faithfulness to that Word. In view of all that they have heard and seen, he urges them to a public confession of loyalty to that Word in a hostile world.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel has said.” Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!”

The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!”

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:21-31

Few teachings from the Word of God meet greater hostility and ridicule from the world today than those presented in this reading. The teaching on the proper role of man and woman faces as well the hostility of our own selfish and rebellious flesh. But we follow after and cling to the Word of the Lord, no matter what the flesh says and no matter what the world says.

...and by submitting to one another in reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he himself is the Savior. Moreover, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.”

GOSPEL LESSON: John 6:60-69

Those who refused the saving food and divine wisdom offered in the Word go away from Jesus grumbling. Jesus’ response is sorrow at their departure. But that sorrow does not move him to compromise the truth; for he continues by boldly confessing equally difficult truths about his coming triumph. The Spirit who gives life by the bread of life prompts the likewise bold confession from Peter to the divine person and work of the Savior.

When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ronald Knueppel/Bill Keller, Jr.; next Sunday: Mike Pamperin/Dean Ebert

ORGANISTS: The **September** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: Today is Fellowship Sunday! All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service. We thank the Rob & Tanya Stern Family for hosting this fellowship hour!

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next Service Group meeting will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday (TODAY), August 29**. One of the topics of discussion will be plans for our Mission Festival which is scheduled for **Sunday, September 26, 2021**. All confirmed congregational members are members of the Service Group and are invited and encouraged to participate!

SUNDAY SCHOOL/TEEN BIBLE STUDY: Sunday School and Teen Bible Study will begin again on **Sunday, September 19**. If you would like your children to participate in these classes, please sign them up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. Please be sure to put the age of your child(ren) down on the sheet along with their name(s) so we can place them in the appropriate class. If you have any questions about these classes, please speak with Pastor Mose today.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS will also begin on **Sunday, September 19**. Classes will begin at **10:15 AM** and end at **11:00 AM**.

FALL GOLF OUTING: This year's golf outing has been set for **Sunday, September 19**, beginning at **12:30 PM** at **HORICON HILLS GOLF COURSE**. We encourage you to invite family and friends to participate with us! The cost will be **\$50.00** for golfing with cart, meal, and door prizes. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board shortly (if it has not been done so already). Questions about the outing may be directed to **Wayne Schultz (920-948-1978)** or **Christy Keller (920-210-5973)**.

WLA – HOT LUNCH: St. Matthew's has been assigned the dates of **Tuesday, September 7** thru **Friday, September 10, 2021**, to serve hot lunch at WLA. The hours of service are from **9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**. There is a possibility that you may need to wear a mask while serving. This has yet to be determined. If this is something you would be willing to do, please sign up on the sheet hanging on the church bulletin board. If you would like more information about helping, please contact **Maxine Gregorius (262-224-1748)**. Thank you!

SCRIP ORDERS: A reminder that scrip orders for September will be due on **Thursday, September 2!** We are back to our regular schedule of every-other-week ordering. The second date in September will be **Thursday, September 16**. Orders can be placed on an order form (located on the school bulletin board) and dropped off in the school office, or you can order online at any time. If you'd like to find out how to establish an online scrip account or have any questions about our scrip program, please contact **Holly Daley (920-285-1307)**, our scrip coordinator. Remember! Scrip credits earned can be used toward the cost of tuition in the next school year while also benefitting our school!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 19; Sunday: 91

Offerings: \$2,944.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,661.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$25.00

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Worship Service (Fellowship Sunday)..... 9:00 AM <i>Service Group Meeting – Immediately following Fellowship Hour</i>
Tuesday:	4K Orientation 7:00 PM
Thursday:	1st Day of 4K – Classes begin 12:30 PM Communion Worship Service 7:00 PM SCRIP ORDERS DUE
Friday:	NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY WEEKEND BREAK
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM