

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16 & 19, 2023

A Time for Faithful Service

Opening Hymn798, “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154 (Thursday); Setting Two, Page 172 (Sunday)

Prayer of the Day: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalms of the Day (*On Insert*)Psalm 2D

SECOND READING

Gospel AcclamationPage 161 (Thursday); Page 179 (Sunday)

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *Be faithful, even to the point of death, *I and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day766, “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

SERMON “What Is a Typical Congregation?” Romans 12:1-8

Offering Hymn..... 748 v. 1, “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Nicene Creed..... Pages 162-163 (Thursday); Pages 180-181 (Sunday)

Communion LiturgyPage 165 (Thursday); Page 183 (Sunday)

Communion Hymn.....667, “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

Closing LiturgyPage 170 (Thursday); Page 187 (Sunday)

Closing Hymn 695 vv.1-3, “Take My Life and Let It Be”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 1:10-18

How did Israel respond to all of God’s gifts? With grudging service, which is not faithful service. How does God respond to Israel? By promising to make them as pure as newly fallen snow.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the LORD. I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings and enough fat from well-fed animals. I am not pleased with the blood of bulls or the blood of lambs and male goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked for this from your hands: this trampling on my courts? Stop bringing worthless offerings! Your incense is an abomination to me. I cannot stand your sinful assemblies on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days. Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts. They have become a burden to me. I am tired of putting up with them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you. Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from my sight. Stop doing evil. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed. Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

When we keep God’s mercy in view, we understand and appreciate the gifts he gives us in Christ, and we use those gifts faithfully.

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect. So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Through a parable Jesus calls his followers to faithful service in grateful response to the gifts that the master has given and in joyful anticipation of the master’s impending return.

“You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

“The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

“Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

ORGANISTS: The **December** 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!

POINSETTIAS will be purchased and placed in church for the Advent and Christmas season services. If you wish to order a poinsettia (or two) to be placed in church for these services, be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board. You can take your poinsettia(s) home after the Christmas Day service on **Monday, December 25**, or leave it in church for the next Sunday service or until Christmas decorations are taken down. The cost is **\$10.00** per plant. Please contact **Wayne** or **Bonnie Schultz** if you have any questions.

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE: A special Thanksgiving Day worship service will be held on **Thursday, November 23**, at **9:00 AM**. Because of this service, **NO** Thursday evening worship service will be held that night. Our Thanksgiving Day offerings have been designated as follows: **100%** to the **Church Refurbishment Fund**.

CHURCH DECORATING: Please join us on **Saturday, December 2**, beginning at **11:00 AM** to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Those in attendance and helping with the decorating will be welcome to take part in a pizza party that day as well. If you plan on attending, we ask that you sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. Please include your name and the number of people in your family who will be participating. This will help us in deciding how many pizzas need to be ordered. Thank you!

MERRY MINER SALE FOR THE HOLIDAYS! The PTL, with the help of the Merry Miner Soap Shoppe (aka Alex Foulkes), is currently holding a bath and body products sale to help raise funds for our school. 25% of all proceeds will directly benefit the school. What a great time to get some holiday shopping done! If you are interested in purchasing some items to help support this effort, please look for the informational flyer on the table at the back of church or speak to any of our school families. All orders will be taken ONLINE ONLY. The link can be found on the flyer, or if you'd like it emailed to you, please contact **Debbi Foulkes** at the school office (**920-625-6600**) or email the school office at **office@stmatthewironridge.com**. Orders and payment are due: **Saturday, December 2, 2023**. If you have any questions about this sale, please direct them to **Alex Foulkes (920-763-2766)**. Thanks, in advance, to everyone who supports this sale!

INVITATION FROM BETHANY, HUSTISFORD: Bethany will be hosting an Advent service of lessons and carols on **December 6** to which all our members are invited. There will be a chili supper at **5:30 PM**, and the service will begin at **7:00 PM**. If any of our members are interested in singing in the choir, there will be a practice at **6:00 PM** that same evening in the church.

LUTHER PREP SINGERS HERE! Mark your calendars today for a very special worship service on **Sunday, December 17** at **9:00 AM**. We will be privileged to have the Luther Prep Singers in attendance to help lead us through worship. Our own Elliana Mittelstadt is part of this choir. Don't miss it!

BRANCH LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF HAITI – CRAFT SALE UPDATE: About 100 people came to this event which was held at the Trinity Community Center on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Missionary wife, Mary Schultz (married to Rev. Terry Schultz from Oak Creek, Wisconsin), came up for this event, as well as Board members for Branch Lutheran Schools—Pam Folkens and Linda Peterson. These three ladies gave two meaningful presentations updating those in attendance on the state of affairs in Haiti. This event raised \$3,016.25 for Branch Lutheran Schools and will be held once again next fall. Thanks to all who supported this mission effort!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by Wayne & Bonnie Schultz in celebration of their 31st wedding anniversary.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 16; Sunday: 102

Offerings: \$10,719.55

Tuition: \$1,723.25; **4K Tuition:** \$306.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Church Refurbishment: \$100.00; Free-Will (Pastor Boehringer): \$300.00; Christian Aid & Relief: \$20.00

Memorials: In Memory of Ken Gedamke: \$100.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM

Wed. – Fri.: **NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

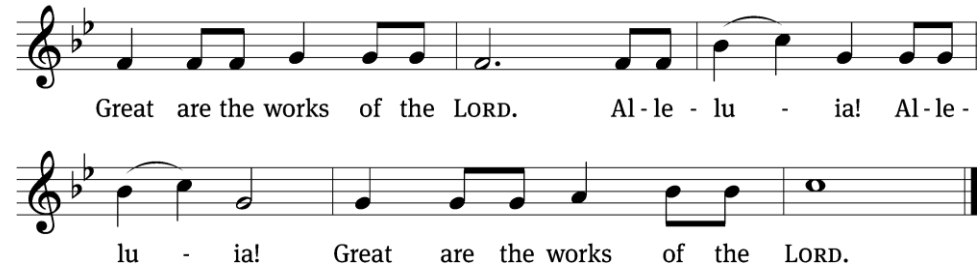
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day Worship Service 9:00 AM
NO Thursday Evening Worship Service

Sunday: Worship Service (**Fellowship Sunday**)..... 9:00 AM

2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

Psalm 2D

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
and the peoples / plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD
and against his A- / nointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
the Lord / scoffs at them.
He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD’s decree:
He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***