

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29 & September 1, 2024

Followers of Christ Obey His Law From The Heart

Opening Hymn 912, "Open, Lovely Doors"

Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 8A

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *When your words came, I */ ate them;
they were my joy and my */ heart's delight.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 560, "Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ"

SERMON..... "Live a God-Pleasing Life" Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23

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

Nicene Creed Pages 162-163

Communion Liturgy Page 165

Communion Hymn..... 663, "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Closing Liturgy Page 170

Closing Hymn 824 vv. 1-3, "This Is the Threefold Truth"

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

God is serious about his law because he knows that when his children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.

So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you. Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, "This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people," because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call on him? What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today? But guard

yourselves and guard your whole being diligently, so that you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that those things do not disappear from your heart all the rest of the days of your life. Make them known to your children and to your children's children.

SECOND READING: Romans 9:30—10:4

Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have obtained righteousness, a righteousness that is by faith. But Israel, while pursuing the law as a way of righteousness, did not reach it. Why? Because they kept pursuing it not by faith, but as if it comes by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. Just as it is written: Look, I am putting a stone in Zion over which they will stumble and a rock over which they will fall. The one who believes in him will not be put to shame.

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is that they may be saved. Indeed, I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but it is not consistent with knowledge. Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God. For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23

The Pharisees established traditions which they thought safeguarded obedience to God, but they missed God's desire for heartfelt love.

The Pharisees and some of the experts in the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean (that is, unwashed) hands. In fact, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they scrub their hands with a fist, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions they adhere to, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches. The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead they eat bread with unclean hands."

He answered them, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written: These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They worship me in vain, teaching human rules as if they were doctrines. "You abandon God's commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things."

He called the crowd to him again and said, "Everyone, listen to me and understand. There is nothing outside of a man that can make him unclean by going into him. But the things that come out of a man are what make a man unclean. In fact, from within, out of people's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and make a person unclean."

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: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwuygart.

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!

FALL GOLF OUTING: This year's golf outing has been set for next **Sunday, September 8**, 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 **\$60.00** for golfing with cart, meal, and door prizes. A sign-up sheet is posted on the church bulletin board for those who wish to participate. Questions about the outing may be directed to **Wayne Schultz (920-948-1978)** or **Christy Keller (920-210-5973)**.

SCRIP ORDERS: A reminder that scrip orders for September will be due on **Thursday, September 5!** We are back to our regular schedule of every-other-week ordering. The second date in September will be **Thursday, September 19**. 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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL/TEEN BIBLE STUDY: Sunday School and Teen Bible Study will begin again on **Sunday, September 15**. 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.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS will also begin on **Sunday, September 15**. Classes will begin at **10:15 AM** and end at **11:00 AM**. If you've never attended Bible class before, why not check it out? You may meet some new friends, and we guarantee it will be a rewarding experience!

MISSION FESTIVAL: This year's Mission Festival worship service is set for **Sunday, September 29**, at **9:00 AM**. Pastor Philip Birner, who was a former pastor here at St. Matthew's and who recently retired from his missionary work in Zambia, Africa, will be our guest speaker. All our school children will be singing at this service. There will also be a presentation following the worship service. The Service Group will be serving light refreshments/finger foods prior to the presentation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special worship service and presentation.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 18; Sunday: 104

Offerings: \$4,845.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$150.00; Christian Life Resources: \$5.00



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

Monday: **NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY**

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM
Scrip Orders Due

Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 AM
Golf Outing (@ Horicon Hills) 12:30 PM

