

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12 & 15, 2024

Followers of Christ Are Armed for the Battle

Opening Hymn517, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Order of Service.....Setting Two, Page 172

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 54A vv. 1&2

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be */
put to shame;
deliver me in your */ righteousness.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 876, "Fight the Good Fight"

SERMON..... "Stand Firm" Ephesians 6:10-18

Offering Hymn 750 v. 1, "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Nicene CreedPages 180-181

Communion Liturgy Page 183

Communion Hymn.....667, "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Closing Liturgy Page 187

Closing Hymn 924, "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 18:21-39

In a showdown between Elijah and the prophets of the idol Baal, the LORD makes it clear that all the combined forces of hell are nothing compared to the almighty power of God.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "How long will you stagger around on two crutches? If the Lord is God, follow him. If Baal is God, follow him." But the people did not answer him a single word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only one left of the Lord's prophets, but the prophets of Baal total four hundred fifty men. Provide two bulls for us. Let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it up and place it on the firewood, but they are not to light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the firewood, but I will not light the fire. Then you will call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers with fire, he is God." All the people said, "This

proposal is good." Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull, and you go first because there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god. But do not light the fire."

So they took the bull which had been given to them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, "Baal! Answer us!" But there was not a sound. No one answered. So they staggered around the altar which they had made.

When noon came, Elijah mocked them: "Shout louder! He is a god, isn't he? He may be deep in thought or busy or on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and will wake up!" So they cried out with a loud voice, and according to their practice they cut themselves with daggers and spears until their blood flowed. After noon, they kept up a prophetic frenzy until the time of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound. No one answered. There was no response. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." So they came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come and had proclaimed, "Your name shall be Israel." He built the stones into an altar in the name of the Lord. Around it he made a trench big enough to hold about twenty-five pounds of seed. He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it again." So they did it again. Then he said, "Do it a third time." So they did it a third time. The water flowed all around the altar. It even filled the trench.

When the time of the evening sacrifice had arrived, Elijah the prophet stood up and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and that I have done all these things by your word. Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you are turning their hearts back to you." Fire from the Lord fell on the sacrifice and on the wood, the stones, and the dirt. It even licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell on their knees and said, "The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God!"

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-18

So that they might be ready for the battle, followers of Christ put on the full armor of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:14-27

As we fight spiritual battles, Jesus assures us that “Everything is possible for the one who believes,” that is, the one who relies on Christ, who has already won the war.

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some experts in the law were arguing with them. As soon as all the people in the crowd saw Jesus, they were very excited and ran to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” One man from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.” “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied. “How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw him, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has this been happening to him?” “From childhood,” he said. “It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” “If you can?” Jesus said to him. “All things are possible for the one who believes.” The child’s father immediately cried out and said with tears, “I do believe. Help me with my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit. “You mute and deaf spirit,” he said, “I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!” The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many of them said, “He’s dead!” But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up, and he stood up.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 20; Sunday: 92

Offerings: \$7,341.05

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

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$50.00; Christian Life Resources: \$10.00;

Church Refurbishment *(from Golf Outing)*: \$1,745.00



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.

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 **October** 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. There are also still a couple of open services in September. Can you please take a look at those as well? Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL/TEEN BIBLE STUDY/ADULT BIBLE CLASS: All classes will begin **Sunday (TODAY)** at **10:15 AM**. The classes will run until **11:00 AM**.

LWMS FREE-WILL OFFERING: **TODAY** we will be taking a free-will offering to help support the work of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society. We hope many of you will consider supporting their mission efforts. Both cash and check donations are acceptable. If paying by check, please make payable to: **LWMS**. If you would like more information about LWMS, please speak with our congregational leader, Becky Schulz.

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 returned 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.

If you are unable to attend our Mission Festival service, there will still be our regular Thursday evening worship service on **Thursday, September 26, at 7:00 PM**. However, Pastor Birner will not be preaching at this service. It is likely a video will be shown that evening instead.

MISSION FEST OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please note that there are TWO envelopes you are encouraged to use from your envelope packets for Mission Fest. The first is the usual WHITE church budgetary envelope. The second is a special RED Mission Festival envelope. Any amounts placed in the RED envelope will go directly to help support mission efforts rather than to our church budget.

DODGE/WASHINGTON FALL MISSION RALLY: This year’s fall mission rally will be held on **Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Peace Lutheran Church, Hartford**. It will be co-hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Huilsburg, and Zion Lutheran Church, Theresa. The guest speakers will be Tim, Jessica, and Josh Payne of Newburg, WI. They will be informing us about their recent trip to Zambia, Africa, with the Vulnerable Children’s Foundation. A sign-up sheet to attend is posted on the LWMS bulletin board in the hallway by Mr. Lorge’s classroom. Registration for the day will begin at **8:30 AM**. The rally will run until **12:30 PM**. Mid-morning refreshments will be served. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be taken at registration for the local food pantry and the Working Fund.

WLA – HOT LUNCH: St. Matthew’s has been assigned the week of **September 30 – October 4** to help serve hot lunch at WLA. The hours of service are from **9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**. 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 **Wayne Schultz (920-948-1978)**. Thank you!

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
(LWMS: Free-Will Offering)
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM
Scrip Orders Due

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

54A God of Might, I Call to You

Psalm 54A



1 God of might, I call to you: show me your sal - va - tion!
2 When you make the wick-ed pay, when their taunts have van - ished,



In your name I put my trust for my vin - di - ca - tion.
I will sac - ri - fice to you, all my trou - bles ban - ished.



Ruth - less stran - gers hunt me down; e - vil foes as - sail me;
When you un - der - mine such threats, when such dreams are blight - ed,



still I am pro - tect - ed, Lord, for you nev - er fail me.
your de - liv - 'rance ren - ders me grate - ful and de - light - ed.

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