

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 16 & 19, 2021

Our Lord does all things well. But that is an article of faith, not sight.

Opening Hymn 465, “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

Order of Service..... Service of Word & Sacrament, Page 26

Prayer of the Day: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 116 (page 107)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse..... Page 30

GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day405, “Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink”

SERMON..... “Your Faith Needs Exercise” James 2:1-5,8-10,14-18

Nicene Creed Page 31

Communion Liturgy Page 33

Communion Hymn.....313, “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

Closing Liturgy Page 36

Closing Hymn 406 vv. 1-3, “This Is the Threefold Truth”

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 50:4-10

Jesus himself is the example of patient endurance in suffering. He listened to the Word of God and obeyed it perfectly. But no one suffered as he did. And what was the outcome of his suffering? In his resurrection he was triumphant both in achieving the divinely ordained goal of our redemption and in deliverance from all sorrow and pain.

The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. Look, the LORD God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume

them. Who among you worships the LORD and listens to the voice of his servant? Anyone who walks in darkness and who has no bright light—let him trust in the name of the LORD, and let him lean on his God.

SECOND LESSON: James 2:1-5,8-10,14-18

God uses the trials of the poor and needy to test the faith of those who love him. If we honor only those who are wealthy or without care—perhaps with the hidden motive that they can be of use to us—we are not imitating God who has chosen us helpless and absolutely needy ones as heirs of salvation. If by our works we serve the lowly and the destitute, who cannot repay or help us, then we reflect and confess before the world a living faith that imitates its divine source.

My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. For example, suppose a man enters your worship assembly wearing gold rings and fine clothing, and a poor man also enters wearing filthy clothing. If you look with favor on the man wearing fine clothing and say, “Sit here in this good place,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand over there” or “Sit down here at my feet,” have you not made a distinction among yourselves and become judges with evil opinions? Listen, my dear brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him? However, if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, since you are convicted by this law as transgressors. In fact, whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point has become guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says that he has faith but has no works? Such “faith” cannot save him, can it? If a brother or sister needs clothes and lacks daily food and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but does not give them what their body needs, what good is it? So also, such “faith,” if it is alone and has no works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 8:27-35

Even the one who is God Incarnate expected to suffer. He knew the depths of his coming sorrow. But he embraced it. For by it he would enter into his glory, namely, the glory of his office as our Savior. Any suggestion that he should do otherwise could come only from the devil. He who suffered the cross for us also has assured us that we too will suffer the cross in consequence of following him. It is likewise of the devil to expect that it should be otherwise.

Jesus went away with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They told him, “John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say one of the prophets.” “But who do you say I am?” he asked them. Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men.”

He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.”

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: Hubert Albert/Don Koch; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz.

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.

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

FALL GOLF OUTING: **Sunday (TODAY), September 19**, is our annual golf outing. It begins at **12:30 PM** at **Horicon Hills Golf Course**. Have a "tee"-rific time!

MISSION FEST: This year's Mission Festival worship service is set for next **Sunday, September 26**, at **9:00 AM**. Pastor Timothy Flunker, who serves as the WELS Board for Home Missions Hispanic Outreach Consultant, will be our guest speaker and will discuss Hispanic outreach efforts in the United States. 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 providing/serving "finger foods" prior to the presentation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special worship service and presentation!

In the event you are not able to attend Mission Fest, our Thursday evening worship service on September 23 will also be held at the normal time of 7:00 PM.

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 such as Hispanic Outreach rather than to our church budget.

LWMS FALL MISSION RALLY: We will be hosting the LWMS Fall Mission Rally right here at St. Matthew's on **Saturday, October 16**, from **8:30 AM – NOON**. It will be co-hosted by St. John, Woodland. The speakers and topic will be **Drs. Jim & Stephanie Moore**, who will speak about our mission in **Nepal**. A number of sign-up sheets are located in the hallways. On the LWMS bulletin board in the hallway by Mr. Lorge's classroom there is a sign-up sheet to attend the rally. On the **SCHOOL** bulletin board in the main hallway there is a sign-up sheet to help set up, serve, and clean up, as well as a sheet to donate baked goods. Registration for the day will begin at **8:30 AM** with the rally beginning at **9:00 AM** and concluding at **Noon**. Those planning on attending are asked to bring non-perishable food items or cash as a donation for the Trinity food pantry. Donations will also be taken at registration for rally expenses (i.e. speaker, food, etc.). After the presentation, a donation box will be provided for gifts to Nepal. If you would like more information about this rally, please speak with **Becky Schulz**.

WE THANK Bill Keller, Jeff Nehls, Ronald Knueppel, and Dave Mamerow for their many hours of service in keeping our grounds looking so nice. Your lawn mowing/groundskeeping services these past spring/summer/fall months have been greatly appreciated!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 24; Sunday: 107

Offerings: \$5,329.26

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

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$20.00

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM
Golf Outing (@ Horicon Hills)..... 12:30 PM

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM

Sunday: **MISSION FESTIVAL** 9:00 AM
Presentation to immediately follow service