

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS
July 30, 2023

Pentecost 9
Sunday, July 30, 2023
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 785

"When Peace Like a River"

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Solo

"Sonata #3: Allegro assai"

J. S. Bach

Word

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119: 129-136 (see page 4)

(read responsively)

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

*Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia!"

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*Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 622 (refrain only)

"Neither Death, Nor Life"

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 885

"Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow"

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

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*Holy, Holy, Holy

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Thanksgiving at the Table V

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven...*)

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Lamb of God

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Communion Hymns 757, 479

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 705

“God of Grace, and God of Glory”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today’s gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first!

Psalm 119: 129-136

¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Guest Organist: Corinne Dutton

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Don Robins (519-502-2099)

Worship Notes

In our prayers Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen, Bernice and John.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving you and forgiving you. The pastor will distribute communion wafers using tongs. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. You may then take a pre-poured wine cup from the larger tray or a juice cup from the smaller tray. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the ongoing construction planning, when going in to the church house or washrooms, use the west stair tower door and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The stairs in the west tower are closed to the lower level sanctuary and should only be used in case of an emergency to exit the building.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.

Space for your notes on today's service, for your personal reflection.

Fire Exits: All Sanctuary fire exits remain operational during lower-level demolition and renovations. This includes the three Narthex (Entrance) doors, the mid-tower door (half-way up the right side), and the staircase at the front left, piano side.

Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

Contact Information

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