

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: The Greater Testimony

This Sunday is a bridge between the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost. Upon the Lord's Ascension, the disciples were not left alone. They had the Word of the Lord and the promise of the Spirit to make known to them all that Jesus said and did. With the testimony of God's Word and the witnesses to the Lord's resurrection and ascension, the Church learned to trust in what the Lord had accomplished for their salvation and to be bold in witness to the truth of this Gospel. The Lord is still working in us through the testimony of His Word so that we may be His witnesses emboldened by the Spirit.

Serving in Our Church Service Today: Jody Wangerin

Serving Next Sunday: Ed Geiger

Saturday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

Sunday's Reader: Jody Wangerin

VADJA HYMN SERVICE: On Sunday, May 26 during Memorial Day weekend, we will bring back the Jaroslav Vadja Hymn Service for our Sunday church services. We will use it through Labor Day weekend in September.

COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAY: Each Sunday, before and after our church service, we hold fellowship coffee time. Everyone is invited to join.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from 1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

**Saturday
May 11, 2024
Easter 7**

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Thomas Williams
Congregational Treasurer

Stephanie Coppola
Elder

JUNE READINGS: Next weekend, copies of the Sunday readings for the month of June will be available on the table in the narthex. A sign up sheet will also be on the table. Anyone can sign up to read. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Iovine before or after our church service.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

READINGS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY:

- Ezekiel 37:1–14 (The valley of the dry bones hears the Word of the Lord.)
- Acts 2:1–21 (The Spirit descended upon the disciples as Jesus had promised.)
- John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 (“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” - Hymn 497
- “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid” - Hymn 500
- “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” - Hymn 650
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NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

- **Saint Matthew's** Saturday, May 18 @ 5:00 pm
- **Saint Matthew's** Sunday, May 19 @ 9:30 am
- **Holy Trinity** Sunday, May 19 @ 11:30 am



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Seventh Saturday of Easter

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

Welcome & Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

C: **I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father, You have given us Your Word and with it Your Spirit, that by the testimony of the prophets and evangelists, we may know the truth that sets us free from sin and fear. Guard Your Word within us, that by this faithful testimony we may be made bold in witness and faithful in service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

(The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death.)

L: The First Reading for the 7th Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 1:

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it';

and

"Let another take his office.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:9–15

(“Whoever has the Son has life.”)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapter 5:

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 17:11b–19

(Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said) “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Today's Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is good, right, and our very duty to praise You, almighty Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose death and resurrection have borne the good fruit of salvation for all who believe. Having shown to us His mercy, clothing us in His righteousness, grant that we be faithful in witness and fervent in love toward those who do not yet know Him.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, blessed are You. In Your goodness You made all things and You created us to be Your own and live under You in Your kingdom without end. We give You thanks that our Lord Jesus Christ has rescued us from sin and its death and delivered us into Your kingdom so that we might live now to the praise of Your glory and at last be joined with the faithful who have gone before us and now rest from their labors. Grant us grace that as we are instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists we may be united in faith, devoted to prayer, and bold in mission and service. Help us that by this Holy Communion we may be nourished and strengthened in faith and in the confession of Your holy name.

C: **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \mp body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

A: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Distribution

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Holy Lord, mighty God, everlasting Father, You spoke through the apostles and prophets to make known Your Son, Jesus Christ, and the salvation He has accomplished for us. Speak hope and courage into our hearts that we may boldly proclaim Jesus Christ and His work for our salvation. Prepare the hearts of those who hear that the Spirit may bring forth in them the faith to acknowledge all His goodness for our redemption; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Moment of Prayer