

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

September 19th, 2021

8:30 a.m. Service

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The First Must Be Last

Introduction for the Day: Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Sheila Rawn

Temple Talk

Outreach for Hope, Emily Wanezek

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

God calls us to worship him as little children.

God is good; God is great!

Gathering Song

God, You Call Us to This Place



1. God, you call us to this place, where we know your love and grace.
2. Now as - sem - bled in Christ's name, all your mer - cies to pro - claim:
3. In the wa - ter we were born of the Spir - it in the Son.



Here your hos - pi - ta - li - ty makes of us one fam - i - ly,
 in the hear - ing of your word, in the gos - pel of the Lord,
 Now a priest - ly, roy - al race rich in ev - 'ry gift of grace:



makes our rich - di - ver - si - ty rich - er still in un - i - ty,
 in the break - ing of the bread, in the meal where we are fed:
 called, for - giv - en, loved, and freed, for the world we in - ter - cede:



makes our man - y voic - es one, joined in praise with Christ your Son.
 in the Spir - it let us be one in faith and un - i - ty.
 gath - er in - to un - i - ty all the hu - man fam - i - ly.

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Litany for "The First must be Last" Sunday

How great is the love that we should be called children of God.

God the Creator, we thank you this day for making us your children through water and the Word!

God the Son, you welcomed children into your midst.

May we invite all to become our family in the faith.

O Servant Savior, day after day you set before us opportunities to serve.

Help us to keep serving you, by making the most of the opportunities you give us.

O Servant Savior, you willingly welcomed us into your circle of servanthood.

Help us to keep serving you and encouraging others to join us in our service.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Second Reading

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Praise the Savior

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Sav - ior; let his faith - ful Word be heard.

Al - le - lu - ia! Love your neigh - bor; thus be do - ers of God's Word.

Ears that hear and tongues pro - claim - ing, Christ's a - bun - dant good - ness tell.

Come, re - joic - ing at his heal - ing, for he has done all things well.

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Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

The holy gospel according to Mark the 9th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Sheila Rawn

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#595 Jesus Loves Me!

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in
need.

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Thanksgiving

Musical Offering
by Mark Hayes

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship arr.

Senior Choir

1. Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down. Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Come and worship, come and worship, come, adore the Lord our God.

2. Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him. Will you help the trembling sinners who are struggling hard with sin? Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found. Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

All believers, come and worship.

3. Let us love our God supremely. Let us love each other, too. Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new. Then he'll call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down. Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Brethren, we have met to worship. Sisters we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

#185 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. O God, you have shown us the way to your very heart, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Accept these gifts, offered in deepest humility. May they be used in your service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

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O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Rally Day

(Please be seated)

Installation of Christian Education Teachers and Leaders

We ask the Sunday School Teachers, Guides, Helpers and Leaders to stand.

A reading from First Corinthians. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Cor. 12:4-7)*

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth, and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of St. Matthew's, will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

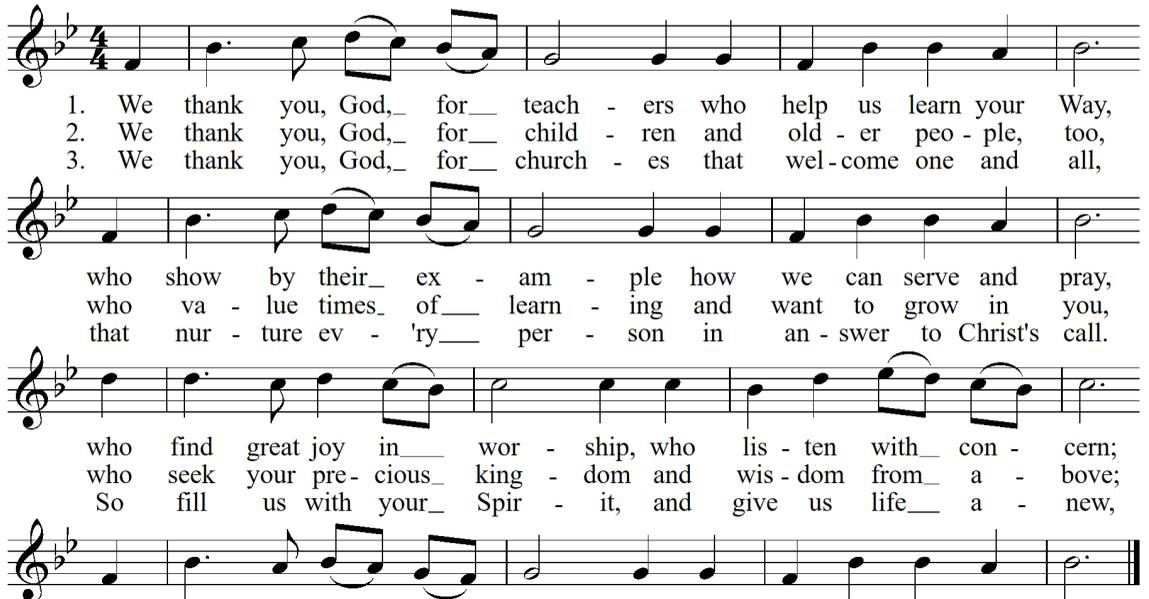
We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Christian Education Hymn

We Thank You, God, for Teachers



1. We thank you, God, for teach - ers who help us learn your Way,
 2. We thank you, God, for child - ren and old - er peo - ple, too,
 3. We thank you, God, for church - es that wel - come one and all,

who show by their ex - am - ple how we can serve and pray,
 who va - lue times of learn - ing and want to grow in you,
 that nur - ture ev - 'ry per - son in an - swer to Christ's call.

who find great joy in wor - ship, who lis - ten with con - cern;
 who seek your pre - cious king - dom and wis - dom from a - bove;
 So fill us with your Spir - it, and give us life a - new,

for in their lov - ing wit - ness, they help us want to learn.
 for wise ones of all a - ges still seek to learn your love.
 that we may help each oth - er live faith - ful - ly in you.

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Sunday School Rally Event

Sending

(Please stand as you are able)

Benediction

People of God, you have been called to be Disciples of Christ. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude