

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

North Tonawanda, NY

September 5th, 2021
15th Sunday in Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, James encourages us toward good works of service and love, and Jesus does the good work of healing by restoring a man's hearing and speech. Our faith in Jesus is marked by our reflection of His love and service. While we are not able to do all the things Jesus can do, we are called to reflect His faithful work as we serve in our vocations by loving our neighbors.

****The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at this service, Communion is offered to Lutheran members in Altar & Pulpit Fellowship only, we believe based on Scripture and the "Book of Concord", (The Lutheran Confessions) that only those who share the same faith and teaching of Doctrine should Commune together. Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 10:17, 1 Cor. 11:26 and Rom. 16:17 is where we find this written, if this is your first time at St. Matthew, and would like to take Communion, please talk to the Pastor before the service. If you are taking Communion, please fill out the Communion Registration form. *

LSB 592 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

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

Amen.

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

Blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD;

the LORD sets the prisoners free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD upholds the widow and the fatherless.

The LORD will reign forever!

Give Glory to God, our light and our life!

O come, let us worship Him.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Give Glory to God, our light and our life!

O come, let us worship Him.

Baptism of Luka Adam Neudecker

When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

Stand

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

Amen.

Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of

all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

How are you named?

Luka Adam Neudecker

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

Luka receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold *Luka* according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him, which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that he be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the

multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, he would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

Is it your intention to serve *Luka* as sponsors in the Christian faith?

Yes, with the help of God.

God enable you to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

Amen.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation

joins in praying:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even forevermore.

Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate and asks the following questions:

Luka do you renounce the devil?

Yes, I renounce him.

Do you renounce all his works?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you renounce all his ways?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe 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?

Yes, I believe.

Do you 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?

Yes, I believe.

Luka do you desire to be baptized?

Yes, I do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

Luka I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

Amen.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted *Luka* the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he has now become Your child, You would keep him in his baptismal grace, that according to Your god pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Peace be with you.

Amen.

All return to their places.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 35:4–7a*

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *James 2:1–10, 14–18*

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your

assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it...¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *Mark 7:31–37*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² And they brought to him a man who was

deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

LSB 719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

Sermon

Offertory

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.***

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all the nations of the world, their leaders and residents, that peace may reign and that the Church would be a faithful witness of Jesus' love and service in every place. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all those who work in the service of others, that their work might be blessed by God and appreciated by others. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all those who mourn the death of loved ones, we pray for comfort in the face of grief. Grant that all those who mourn find hope in the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all those who have abandoned the faith, Lord, that they would once again hear Your Word and receive Your good gifts. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all Christians throughout the world, that their faith and good works would overflow as a blessing to many others. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all those with disabilities, Lord, that we might treat them with more thoughtfulness and care, serving them as Your beloved people. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

to love all people in every place.

For all who are sick, injured, preparing for surgery, and recovering, [*especially . . .*], that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will. Lord of all nations, grant us grace,

to love all people in every place.

Lord, into Your hands we place all these things, knowing that You hear us and remain faithful.

Amen.

The Exhortation:

Dear friends in Christ, it is your desire to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the assurance of the forgiveness of your sins, the strength of your faith in Him as your savior, and the grace to serve Him with a God-pleasing life. In order that these blessings may be yours, it is necessary that you bear in mind the Word of God recorded by St. John in his first epistle: "if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

Confession and Absolution:

I ask you therefore, before the God who searches your heart: Do you confess the sins which you have committed in desire, thought, word and deed? Do you repent of them with all your heart, believe in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and

sincerely intend, with the help of God the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so then boldly declare; YES!

YES!

Upon this confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the place and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His Disciples, saying' "Take eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you, this is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, and grant us Your peace.

Amen.

The Distribution: LSB 527 O Savior, Precious Savior

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!

And His mercy endures forever!

Post- Communion Prayer

We give thanks, Heavenly Father, that you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come. Keep us firm in the faith during our pilgrimage on earth. Open or eyes to see Your daily and eternal so that we may continue to give You all the praise.

Strengthen us in faith until faith is turned to sight, when we shall celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Benediction:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
The love of God the Father,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen

LSB 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee