

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2023

9:30am Worship

The Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

*** Confession & Forgiveness p. 94-96**

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

*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.***

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*P: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

*P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.***

*** Gathering Hymn #855 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)**

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

*** The Prayer of the Day (all pray)** O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-15

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Responsive Reading – Psalm 23

L: **23** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

L: ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C: ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

ALL: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*** Gospel Announcement**

* Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*** The Gospel Lesson: John 10:14-16**

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon (Mary Ann Smith)

Hymn #153 (TOSB)

"O How He Loves You And Me"

The Sermon

"The Flock / Church Metaphor"
(Psalm 23 & John 10:14-16)

Pastor Rodney Sawyer

* **Apostles' Creed** p. 105

The Hymn of the Day #789

"Savior, Like A Shephard Lead Us"

Offering

* **Offering Response #186**

Prayers

* **The Lord's Prayer** p. 154 **C: 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.**

* **Benediction**

* **Sending Hymn # 638**

"Blessed Assurance"

* **Dismissal** *P:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Announcements:

Weekly Events:

Monday, 9/2	Office Closed 9:00am – Worship Meeting
Tuesday, 9/3	7:00am – Jr. High Study 1:00pm – Library 7:00pm – Committee Night
Wednesday, 9/4	6:30am – Men's Bible Study 11:00am – Pastor's Bible Study 1:00pm – Prayers 6:00pm – Confirmation 7:00pm – Choir Practice
Thursday, 9/5	6:00pm – Pastor's Bible Study
Saturday, 9/6	7:00am – Gideons
Sunday, 9/8	Worship / Communion Coffee Fellowship

RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 15, 2024
9:30 Worship
12:00 Lunch
Please bring a lawn chair
and a dish to pass.
Meat will be provided.

Confirmation
Wed., Sept. 4 6:00pm

Pastor's Bible Studies
Wed., Sept. 4 11:00am
Thurs., Sept. 5 6:00pm

Altar Flowers
Given by Lani Swinford in honor of
Sept. 5 Elise Swinford-Ken Mecum's 3rd anniversary
Sept. 6 Katie Swinford-Joel Hanlon's 15th anniversary
Sept. 7 would have been Randy & Lani's 50th
anniversary

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HARVEST TRIVIA NIGHT
(Adults only)
5:30pm – Saturday, September 21st
1926 S. Euclid, Princeton
Please bring: Heavy appetizer to share, your own
beverage, & your sense of humor.
Dessert, paper products & prizes provided.
Bring a donation for the food pantry &
receive a bonus for the competition.
Sign-up in the back of church.
Direct questions to Sue Scruggs or Joanne Sheldon.

St. Matthews Sainly Spaghetti Supper
4:30 – 7:00pm Saturday, Sept. 21st
St. Matthews Fellowship Hall
\$8 per person, \$6 for children,
under age 3 is free
Pay at the door –
Proceeds to Second Story