

Fífteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 05, 2021

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)



CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

In Outreach

* Nurture St. Matthew Lutheran Church 504 Walnut Mapleton, Iowa 51034 Church Office: 881-2243 Fax: 881-1163 Email: <u>office@stmatthewmapleton.org</u> website: <u>www.stmatthewmapleton.org</u> <u>Facebook page: St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton</u> <u>Rev. Christopher LaBoube, Pastor</u> Pastor's Cell: 712-840-1652 Jeff Krusen, Head Elder (712) 840-9821 Mark Witzel, President (760)500-8902 Karen Krusen

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15th Sunday after Pentecost 5 September 20201

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA Isaiah 35:4–7a / Psalm 146 / James 2:1–10, 14–18 / Mark 7:31–37

Sermon Title: Jesus Opened the Kingdom of Heaven to Us Sermon Text: Mark 7:31-37

"Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

How does it feel to have a door closed in your face? How does it feel to be denied access to some place? On the contrary, how does it feel to have people warmly welcome you through wide-open doors? Would you still believe in Jesus if you couldn't come to him whenever you wanted?

In the Old Testament, when God instituted regular worship in the traveling tabernacle in the Desert of Sin, only the priest was allowed to enter the Holy Place under specific guidelines. After the temple was established and built in Jerusalem, the high priest could only enter the Most Holy Place one time a year under specific guidelines.

Those specific guidelines could make you feel that God was not attainable. On the contrary, God set up the tabernacle and temple guidelines to help people worship the One True God in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives.

And then during the days when Martin Luther lived, the church at that time continued to keep guidelines that seemed to make God inaccessible and impersonal. And yet, from the beginning of time, our Holy and Righteous God Almighty has been and continues to be a personal intimate God.

Throughout the Old Testament, God said that you cannot see him face to face otherwise you will die. But this doesn't mean that you can't come to God. In fact, the fact that God had set up regulations as to how worship was supposed to be, he was giving everyone the opportunity to come to him in an appropriate way every day.

This is why God our Heavenly Father promised back in the Garden of Eden to send us a savior, one, who would save us all from going to hell. This is exactly what God the Father did by sending us Jesus so that we could strengthen our relationship with the One True God. Jesus is now our direct ac

cess to God our Heavenly Father. We can come to God any time of the day or night with our prayers, requests and thanksgivings.

After our first parents sinned against God by eating of fruit from the Tree of Life, God separated them from him, but he never left them. This is the promise we see when Jesus says he will send the Holy Spirit to live within each one of us so that the Holy Spirit will regularly teach us all that we need to know and remember about Jesus.

In our Gospel lesson for this morning from Mark chapter seven, we see hoe Jesus against reminds us how God the Father has opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all, who believe in him.

⁽³¹ Then [Jesus] 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. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened. '³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'" (Mark 7:31-37)

So here is an event in which Jesus healed someone from being blind, but there is also a broader meaning of healing for all of us. "³¹ Then [Jesus] 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."

So Jesus is in a city called Sidon where a deaf man lived. Now, we now from several accounts in Scripture that Jesus did not heal every single person, who he encountered. Not all people, who wanted to be healed by the One True God, did not believe in Jesus. Mark highlights this one particular deaf man in Sidon, and how the people of that city brought the deaf man to Jesus and pleaded with him to heal the man.

⁽³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, [Jesus] put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.'³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly."

So after the crowd leads the deaf guy to Jesus, and begs him to heal the man, Jesus leads the man a little way off from the crowd and he heals the man. *[Jesus] put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue.*

Then, we get to the really good stuff—seeing how personal and intimate Jesus wants to be with all of us. *he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.'*

Jesus sighed. Here we see Jesus in his full humanity. Jesus sees very clearly the effects of sin in this world. Jesus sighs. He feels for this man which is why Jesus sighs. He knows the struggles this man has had throughout this entire deaf life.

And then, Jesus says that healing word: '*Ephphatha*,' *that is, 'Be opened*.' Jesus doesn't say, well, I hope that this works. No, Jesus COMMANDS the brokenness to be healed. Jesus now opens this man's hearing to a brand new world.

Jesus does the same for all of us. Jesus commands that the brokenness brought on by sin in this world be healed and that the Kingdom of Heaven BE OPENED for everyone, who believes that he is the only way to heaven.

Then, for the first time in this man's life, he hears. ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly." This man could now hear. This man could now talk. Jesus had opened his ears and mouth to be used to glorify the One True God found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

This is what Jesus also did for you. Jesus humbled himself to be born of a virgin. When he had overcome the sharpness of death, he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. (paraphrase of Te Deum, Matins, p. 223)

This is the core work that Jesus has done for you by his death and resurrection. He commanded that the brokenness be healed and that which was closed, because of sin, be opened to all believers. Jesus did this through his life, suffering, death and resurrection from the dead. By this extreme action—dying for your sins and mine—Jesus commanded that what was once broken and closed now "be opened!"

And once Jesus commands that the brokenness from sin, death and the devil has been healed, we are now free to enter into God's Kingdom. We are now free to enter into God's rest which he offers to us abundantly.

"for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:10-11)

It is disobedience to God's Word that caused all people to fall short of God's glory. And as a result of falling short of God's glory, our relationship with God has been broken. Without Jesus, we are closed off to God. And yet, God our loving, Heavenly Father cares for us so much that he was willing to go to extreme lengths to rescue us from being closed off—lock out—of the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is why God the Father sent Jesus, his "only-begotten Son.... begotten of His Father before all worlds.... begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the

Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father." (Nicene Creed: 2nd Article)

Since Jesus was the only God-man, who was able to fulfill completely God's commandments, Jesus had to be the one to suffer a horrible death hanging on a cross, then die and be buried in a tomb. And it was Jesus, the God-man, who was the only one able to overcome sin, death and the devil. This is why it is God's grace and mercy that caused all people, who believe in him, to receive forgiveness of sins and life eternal.

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16) The key point is to believe—to have faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior and to be firmly convinced that it is through Jesus alone that you are able to go to heaven.

Sadly, too many Christians seem to think that they can stay away from the Body of Christ and worship all by themselves. That's true to a point. Of course, people, who refuse to gather for worship are only hurting themselves. People, who refuse to gather with other believers are starving themselves of God's Word and Holy Communion.

The Book of Hebrews chapter ten talks about this: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

No one knows when Jesus will return. And in the meantime, we should encourage one another to gather with other believers to receive from God all that he wants us to have. We should encourage one another to reconcile any disagreements among us.

We are freely able to receive from God in worship all that he wants to give us, because Jesus has commanded that the brokenness that once closed us off from God has been opened. Just as Jesus commanded that the deafness be opened so he could now hear and talk, Jesus has also commanded that the sin that has broken us has now been opened.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.



How to Pray: A 6-Step Guide to Prayer https://blog.youversion.com/2021/04/how-to-pray-a-6-step-guide-to-prayer/ 2021-04-06

"Prayer." When you see that word, what thoughts or images come to mind? Does talking to God come easy to you? Or do you struggle to pray? Knowing what to say to God doesn't always feel easy, and sometimes, prayer gets weighed down by our misconceptions about what a conversation with God should look like.

"Pray then like this..." 2,000 years ago, Jesus taught His disciples to *"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.* ¹⁰ *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* ¹¹ *Give us this day our daily bread,* ¹² *and forgive us our debts, as we also have for-given our debtors.* ¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* (Matthew 6:9-13)

This is now a famous example on how to pray. But how do we apply it to our everyday 21stcentury lives? First, we need to understand how not to pray. Before teaching the Lord's Prayer, Jesus told His disciples, *"when you pray, pray to your Father in private … "* and, *"do not heap up empty phrases … for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."*

If God already knows what we need, then prayer isn't simply about the words we say. If we're praying to impress people, or if we're treating prayer like a box to check, then we're missing out on the power of prayer.

Prayer is, and always will be, a dynamic conversation with God. When we realize this, the Lord's Prayer becomes a freeing framework that helps us talk to God every day. Here's a 6-step guide to prayer that can help:

Refocus on God: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'

Inhale deeply and focus on these words: "*Our Father in heaven*." Slowly exhale as you say: "*Holy is Your name*." Repeat this several times, and pay attention to any aspects of God's character that come to mind. Spend this time focusing on how great God is.

Realign your will: 'Your kingdom come ... '

God has always been in the process of carrying out His will on earth. So right now, reflect on this: when you align your will with God's will, you are actively seeking His Kingdom. Quiet any noise around you, and ask God to show you how you can take part in doing His will today.

Release your concerns: 'Give us this day our daily bread ... '

Imagine holding your hands out in front of you, as if you want God to put something in them. As you give God your concerns, what does He give you in return? List your concerns, and say them one at a time. Each time you voice a concern, try asking God to, *"give us this day our daily bread."* Sit with this exercise for as long as you need.

Repent and respond: 'And forgive us ... as we forgive ... '

What are you holding onto that you need to lay down? Is there anything you need to confess right now? Maybe it's a hurt you can't let go of, a behavior you're struggling to change, an addiction you haven't conquered, or a mistake you keep making. God invites you to come as you are, and respond to Him. Tell him whatever is on your mind, then create space to hear from Him.

Request God's protection: '... deliver us from evil ... '

We've all been rescued from something. What has God rescued you from? Thank Him for His faithfulness, and let Him know where you need help. Consider praying on behalf of other people who may also need protection. Remember that even when situations seem hopeless, there is nothing God cannot do.

Rejoice and reflect.

Celebrate what God has done in your life, and look for ways to worship Him throughout your day. Then, spend a few minutes reflecting on this time with God. What has He shown you? Consider adding anything that stands out to your prayer list.

When we start to pray like Jesus did, we will start to experience intimacy with God like Jesus did. And when we let prayer shape the way we live, we start to realize that we can approach God at all times with confidence, vulnerability, and trust.

10 Reasons to Read the Bible

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? After all, sleeping is better than reading, right? Before you close the book on God's book, here is one of ten reasons to take time to read God's message to us.

1. Reading the Bible shows us God's character. The Bible is our definitive source for the answers to our questions about God. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

<u>**Our Sympathies and Prayers**</u> to the family of Jim Kueny (Karen Kueny's husband) who went to live with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on 08-31-2021. May the family find comfort in <u>John 11: 25-26</u> "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.;" Visitation at the Armstrong-Van Houten Funeral Home of Mapleton on 09-06-21 from 3-5pm. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am, 09-07-21 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Mapleton.

On Oct 17th: The 21st Sunday after Pentecost Pastor LaBoube will be on Main Street Living. This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 am., please set your recorder so you don't miss it.

Monona County's participation in the **Iowa-99 County Bible Reading Marathon for 2021,** as designated by Governor Reynold's Proclamation. Tuesday September 14 and 15th held on Monona County courthouse's lawn. Reading time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The bible will be read by several individuals, simultaneously as assigned, until the entire book is completed.

<u>**Triumphant Sound Quartet**</u> coming to St. Matthew Sep. 19th at 4 pm come and enjoy and bring a friend and or neighbor

THE JESUS T-SHIRTS You may sign up for one at the back of the church. Many of your have been asking for them, so we found them for you. We will not be able to order it we do not have 12 or more sign up.

<u>Prayer Program headed by Starla Brock</u> She is inviting anyone that is interested to attended. It is being held at in the High School Parking Lot on the 3rd Sunday at 11:40 am. They will be praying for the school, teachers, school workers, school children. Everyone is welcome to come.

<u>A Big Thank you</u> to everyone that participated in the school supply project. It was well received. To God be the Glory! From the Out reach committee, Marilyn & Romona.

The Card Ministry is providing Greeting Cards for members to use (**no charge for them**). They are located on the table in the narthex . Any questions contact Rita LaFrentz 840-9703 (cell) 881-2078 (home) or Mavis Skow 881-2550 (home) 882-6008(cell) Boxes of cards will be sold for \$5.

<u> </u>		Needed per Week	\$3,225.02
	Week of Schedule 09-06 to 09-12	Sunday Giving 08-29-21	\$320.00
Mon 06	Pastors Family Day	Sunday attendance 08-29-21	27
Tues 07	Board of Elders 7 pm	Members communed 08-29-21	NA
Wed 08	Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm	Children in Church 08-29-21	1
Sun 12	16th Sun. after Pentecost Services 9:30 a.m.	Visitors 08-29-21	1
		Bible Class 08-29-21	7
	10:45 a.m. Sunday School	Sunday School 08-29-21	3c / 1t
	10:45 a.m. Bible Class	In The Word 09-02-2021	5

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shelly Boyle	Sep 17, 1962
Crystal Bretthauer	Sep 06, 1956 🥂
Frances Brodersen	Sep 27, 1945
Patrick Brodersen	Sep 26, 1965
Patrick Brodersen	Sep 26, 1999
Alan Bruhn	Sep 15, 1960
Calvin Bruhn	Sep 01, 1984
Samantha Burkhart	Sep 25, 1992
Wendy Buss	Sep 16, 1966
Shane Davis	Sep 19, 1973
Dale Engelke	Sep 26, 1952
Shari Erlemeier	Sep 25, 1962
Gloria Fletcher	Sep 16, 1955
Kathleen Fritz	Sep 14, 1965 /
Harper Goslar	Sep 04, 2017
Jordan Goslar	Sep 30, 1999
Sean Goslar	Sep 03, 1993
Kimberly Greiner	Sep 14, 1994
Shawn Hamann	Sep 23, 1971
Jon Jacobson	Sep 29, 1976
Pam Jahn	Sep 16, 1948
Brad Jochims	Sep 21, 1973
Cody Meseck	Sep 11, 1979
Jacob Miller	Sep 23, 1995
Matthew Petersen	Sep 11, 1982
Justin Rickert	Sep 04, 1985
Craig Riesberg	Sep 14, 1987
Ariel Rotnicke	Sep 06, 2001
Ann Schmidt	Sep 12, 1957
Donna Shaw	Sep 03, 1958

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit.

God's Blessings on your Wedding Anniversary

Kirk and Julie Bollig	Sep 15, 1979	42 yrs.
Leo and Florice Dose	Sep 18, 2010	11 yrs.
Sheldon and Peg Jacobson	Sep 06, 1975	46 yrs.
Ron and Lisa Rotnicke	Sep 28, 1995	26 yrs.
Bert and Diana Schauer	Sep 05, 1992	29 yrs.

SEPTEMBER BAPTISMS

80 + Birthday	g God's Blessi	ngs
	Sep 25, 1932	89
George Koithan	Sep 02, 1932	89 [°]

Please continue to pray for our church leaders. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

<u>PRAYER WARRIORS</u> The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call **<u>Alice Miller</u>** phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek	Carol Dose	Myrna Gosch	Kurt Schmidt	
Melvin & Selma Schrader	Alan Bruhn	Mark Witzel	Sharon Pope	
Mardelle Vandevanter	Hans & Lavone Witzel		Ferne Jacobsen	
Marilyn & Duane Hamann	Sheldon Jacobsen			

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Tammy Jean Bramley**, mother of Sam Kelm; ; **Cheri Moe**, niece of Dorothy Wessling. **Jerri Haindfield** daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann

Those who serve in the military:

TristonTwedt (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army @ Ft. Lewis, WA Ryan Trucke (son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson) serving with U.S. Air Force @ FE Warren AFB in Wyoming. Jackie Cardwell (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen) serving U.S. Airforce @ Shepard Air Force Base, Burkburnett TX

Marcus Roupe serving in Cuba (nephew of Marilyn & Duane Hamann)

St. Matthew's Prayer List that are confined to their homes

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 87 yrs. Jun 2, 1934

Main Street Apartments 516 Main Street Apt 2 Mapleton, IA 51034

Delores Boysen 82 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939 31153 Juinter Ave. Hinton, IA 51024

<u>Delbert Kroll</u> 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933 815 Ring Street Mapleton IA 51034

<u>Phyllis Fick</u> 93 yrs. Jun 3, 1928 Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living 404 1st St. Battle Creek, IA 51006 Carol Dose 87 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934 Sunrise Ave. Maple Heights Nursing Home 51034 Myrna Gosch 80 yrs. Jan 9,1941 Pleasant View Care Center 200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108 Whiting, IA 51063 Melvin Schrader 94 Oct. 29, 1926 21 Ohm Drive

21 Ohm Drive518 Main St. AptMapleton, IA 51034Mapleton, IA 510Selma Schrader 91 yrs. Nov. 12, 1929Ferne Jacobson21 Ohm Drive516 Main St. Apt

Mapleton, IA 51034

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded

Our prayer list that are not confined to their home:

<u>Nazaria Kaderabek</u>

310 S. 6th St. Mapleton, IA 51034

<u>Alan Bruhn</u> 14535 Walnut Ave Mapleton, IA 51034

Mardelle Vandevanter

405 Walnut Mapleton, IA 51034 Kurt Schmidt 405 South 5th St Mapleton, IA 51034 Mark Witzel 100 N. Hwy 183 Pisgah, IA 51564 Marilyn & Duane Hamann 116 S. Hickory St. Smithland, IA 51056 Sharon Pope 518 Main St. Apt. 2 Mapleton, IA 51034 516 Main St. Apt. 4 Mapleton, IA 51034 Sheldon Jacobson 22 Olm Drive

Mapleton, IA 51034



St Matthew Lutheran Church 504 Walnut Street Mapleton, IA 51034

In His Footsteps: Kindness is a virtue given by the Lord, and joy is its reward. He will show you the way and you will be safe and secure. Show Kindness to others.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am e very Sunday am at the church. Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton– Our services at 9:30 am every Sunday website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org - Our services posted weekly Mission Central... www.missioncentral.us Lutheran Family Service: www.lfsiowa.org WEB SITES: Iowa District West-www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji - www.campokoboji.org "THY STRONG WORD" is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" can be heard every Sunday on radio station-KDSN-FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page "THE GOOD SHEP-HEARD HOUR airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City-KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake-KAYL 101.5 FM Lutheran Family Services: www.lofsiowa.org MainStreet Living is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of "This is the Life" The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.

Lord, Hear Our Frayer

Dear Jesus, We continue to hide from You, thank you when we do this You continue to find

us and draw us back into a relationship with You. Amen