

# ST MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

This week's announcements can be found online at  
[StMatthewGR.com/whats-happening](http://StMatthewGR.com/whats-happening)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

## EZEKIEL 47:1-9, 12

In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. <sup>2</sup>The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway.

<sup>3</sup>Measuring as he went, he took me along the stream for 1,750 feet and then led me across. The water was up to my ankles. <sup>4</sup>He measured off another 1,750 feet and led me across again. This time the water was up to my knees. After another 1,750 feet, it was up to my waist. <sup>5</sup>Then he measured another 1,750 feet, and the river was too deep to walk across. It was deep enough to swim in, but too deep to walk through.

<sup>6</sup>He asked me, "Have you been watching, son of man?" Then he led me back along the riverbank. <sup>7</sup>When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. <sup>9</sup>There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows.

<sup>12</sup>Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing."

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

## REVELATION 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

## GOSPEL READING

## JOHN 7:37-44

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup>Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

<sup>40</sup>When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." <sup>41</sup>Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people over him. <sup>44</sup>Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

# SERMON NOTES

We are the Church: Week 3

As followers of Jesus:

- We are here to **enhance our neighborhood** or community
- Church is a **lifestyle that we embrace**

When those two things meet, that's when **the mission of the church really gets lived out.**

## Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

- The **ultimate fulfillment**: when Jesus returns.
- The **immediate fulfillment**: what Jesus is doing today, through us.

The blessings of the temple **don't stay in the temple** - they flow out of the temple.

God's blessing can't just flow among us - **but from us and through us** to all things that are dead and broken around us.

**Question:** Do the places God's people live look better and blessed because we're there?

Most of the time, churches tend to see themselves **not as a river, but as a well.**

We're not called to wait for empty people to come to us. **Blessing must flow from us.**

**WE are the temple of God today.** God's blessing flows through us and out into the dead sea around us.