

# Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Lenten Midweek Church Service

"Be Gracious to Me"

A Look at Psalm 41

Thursday, March 7, 2024



## Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P: Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Heavenly Father,

C: **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

P: At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven and are at peace with God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;**

P the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C **As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**

P My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

**C And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

**P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.**

**C They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

**P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.**

**C But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

**P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.**

**C But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” - Hymn 423

**Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above  
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us, Life eternal, peace, and rest  
Only what Your grace has taught us, Calms the sinner’s deep distress**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

**Text:** Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

**Tune:** *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

**Text and music:** Public domain

## Reading

Deuteronomy 7:22–26

P A reading from Deuteronomy, Chapter 7:

The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. But the Lord your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

Revelation 19:11–16

P A reading from Revelation, Chapter 19:

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

John 12:20–30

P A reading from St. John, the 12th Chapter.

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

“Not All the Blood of Beasts - Hymn 431

**Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away  
A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.**

**My faith would lay its hand On the dear head of Thine  
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.**

**My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear  
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.**

**Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove  
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.**

**Text:** Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

**Tune:** William Daman, c. 1540–91; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

**Text and music:** Public domain

## Sermon

Psalm 41:3

My enemies say of me in malice, “  
When will he die, and his name perish?”

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died for us, the ungodly and weak, so that we might be justified and have peace with God.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

#### The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ☩ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ☩

blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

A: **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.**

### **Pax Domini**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### **Distribution**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal. Continually bring to our minds the profound reality that Jesus died for us, the ungodly, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

**“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven” - Hymn 877**

**God, who made the earth and heaven, Darkness and light  
You the day for work have given, For rest the night  
May Your angel guards defend us, Slumber sweet Your mercy send us  
Holy dreams and hope, attend us, All through the night.**

**And when morn again shall call us To run life's way  
May we still, what'er befall us, Your will obey  
From the pow'r of evil hide us, In the narrow pathway guide us  
Never be Your smile denied us All through the day.**

**Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, And when we die  
May we in Your mighty keeping All peaceful lie  
When the last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not forsake us  
But to reign in glory take us With You on high.**

**Holy Father, throned in heaven, All holy Son  
Holy Spirit, freely given, Blest Three in One  
Grant us grace, we now implore You, Till we lay our crowns before You  
And in worthier strains adore You While ages run.**

**Text:** Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811–73, sts. 2, 4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787–1863, st. 3, alt.

**Tune:** Welsh, 18th cent.; setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

**Text and music:** Public domain