

# TODAY'S BULLETIN

## **As We Gather:** A Profound Reality

We are met today with a profound reality: that Christ died for the ungodly, and that we were once rightly called the ungodly. It is hard to even fathom the depth of our sinfulness. Yet for all the depth of sin present in us and in the world, Christ's love for us and His forgiveness of us runs deeper still. And now, we have reconciliation and peace with God that passes all understanding.

**EASTER LILIES:** Forms for Easter Lilies will be available next month, but you can order them now on the church website right now. Fill out the form on the web page; you can also pay for them there.

## **LENTEN MIDWEEK CHURCH SERVICES:**

Our Midweek church services here at Saint Matthew's will be held on Thursdays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. This week we continue our look at Psalm 41.

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** This week, we continue our study of our Midweek theme - "Be Gracies to Me." Since the fall into sin, no part of our human nature has escaped the ravages of original sin. Not only has sin separated us from God to our spiritual detriment, but our bodies, created for perfect health, endure sickness and injury. King David announces God's answer to this catastrophe in Psalm 41:3: "The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health." This is a beautiful promise, but what does it mean for you and your infirmities? As all the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the gifts contained in these words are only revealed by your Baptism into Him by whose wounds we are healed.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:** Our verse is taken from Romans 5:8

**"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**



## **Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**

New Milford, NJ  
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday  
**February 24,**  
**2024**  
Lent 2

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**OFFICERS**

Edwin Geiger  
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Thomas Williams  
**Congregational Treasurer**

Stephanie Coppola  
**Elder**



**Serving in Our Church Service This Sunday:**

Ed Geiger

**Sunday's Reader:** Ed Geiger

**Serving Next Sunday:** Fellowship Sunday

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

- Exodus 20:1–17 (God offers ten words for the people He delivered from Egypt.)
- 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (We preach Christ crucified.)
- John 2:13–22 (23–25) (Jesus cleanses the temple.)

**HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

- "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" - Hymn 427
- "The Law of God Is Good and Wise" - Hymn 578
- "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" - Hymn 707

**NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES**

March 2 & 3 - Lent 2

- At Saint Matthew's - Saturday, March 2, beginning at 5:00pm
- At Saint Matthew's - Sunday, March 3, beginning at 9:30am
- At Holy Trinity - Sunday, March 3, beginning at 11:30am
- At Holy Trinity - Wednesday, March 6, beginning at 7:30am
- At Saint Matthew's - Thursday, March 7, beginning at noon
- At Saint Matthew's - Thursday, March 7, beginning at 7:00pm

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:**

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

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# Second Saturday in Lent

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

## Welcome & Church Announcements

## Moment of Prayer

## Invocation & Opening Sentences

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Our Lenten journey continues toward the cross.

C: **It is a journey marked with suffering,**

P: but suffering produces endurance..

C: **Endurance produces character.**

P: Character produces hope,

C: **and hope in Christ does not put us to shame.**

## 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.**

## Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your perfect timing, You died for us who are weak and ungodly. Be present with us as we endure the sufferings of this world, so that we may learn how suffering leads to endurance, character, and a hope that never puts us to shame; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

(God renames Abram as Abraham.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent is taken from Genesis, Chapter 17:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you...

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

Romans 5:1–11

(Christ died for the ungodly.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Romans, Chapter 5:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

Mark 8:27–38

(Jesus is the Christ who must suffer, die, and rise again.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter:

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**A: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, 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. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Today's Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

Today's response is taken from the verse 3 of Hymn 708, "Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart."

P: Lord Jesus Christ my prayer attend  
C: **and I will praise Thee without end.**

## 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  $\pm$  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  $\pm$  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.**

## **Moment of Prayer**