

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: What a Priest We Have in Jesus!

Today's Epistle speaks of Jesus, our High Priest. High priests are called to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people as well as themselves. Jesus is a different sort of high priest who offers Himself as sacrifice, once for all, that we might be forgiven and granted eternal salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that He came not to be served, but to serve. He came to offer His life as a ransom for us. As we follow Jesus, we are called to reflect His actions and attitude of service and sacrifice. May we likewise go to serve and sacrifice for others.

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.

EASTER LILIES: Today is the last day to order Easter lilies. Forms are available on the table in the church's narthex for you to order Easter Lilies. The cost per plant is \$10. You can fill out the form and place it on the folder on the church's desk or hand it to Pastor Iovine. Additionally, you can order your plants on the church website. Look for the Easter Lilies link where you can fill out the form and even pay for the plants.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: We continue this week and next week with our "Be Gracious to Me" bible study. Join us for Thursday for our Lenten Midweek Church service at 11:00 am and then bible class at noon.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from Mark 10:45

(Jesus said) "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



**Saint Matthew's
Lutheran Church**
New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday
March 16, 2024
Lent 5

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Mailing Address:
POB 339
New Milford, NJ 07646

Worship Address:
225 Center Street
New Milford, NJ 07646

Contact Us:
(201) 262-5092

Rev. Anthony J. Iovine
Pastor
ajiovine@gmail.com
(201) 407-9563

OFFICERS
Edwin Geiger
Congregational President

Thomas Williams
Congregational Treasurer

Stephanie Coppola
Elder



Serving in Our Church Service Today: Jody Wangerin
Serving Next Sunday: Ed Geiger
Sunday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

PALM SUNDAY READERS:

You can help our Palm Sunday church service by signing up to read. There is one reading remaining! Take the reading and sign your name to the chart. Thank you for considering reading part of the Passion Story on Palm Sunday!

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!

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- John 12:12–19 (The triumphal entry)
- Mark 14:1–15:47 - (Step by step Jesus goes to his glorious death.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "All Glory Laud and Honor" - Hymn 442
- "Ride on, Ride On In Majesty" - Hymn 441
- "Lift High the Cross" - Hymn 837

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

March 9 & 10 - Lent 3

- **Lenten Midweek @ Holy Trinity** - Wednesday, March 20, beginning at 7:00pm
- **Lenten Midweek @ Saint Matthew's** - Thursday, March 21, 11:00am and 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 23 - 5:00pm @ Saint Matthew's
- Sunday, March 24 - 9:30am @ Saint Matthew's
- Sunday, March 24 - 11:30am @ Holy Trinity

Copyright Notes: Part of our liturgy is taken from Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations, unless noted otherwise, are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Fifth 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: What a priest we have in Jesus!

C: **He is our source of eternal salvation.**

P: He sympathizes with us in our weakness.

C: **He offers prayers and supplications for us.**

P: He serves us and sacrifices Himself for us.

C: **What a priest we have in Jesus!**

Confession and Absolution

P: Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we did not need Him, as though our sin was not dire and deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

P: Heavenly Father,

C: **we have sinned against our neighbors and against You. We have sought to be served. We have demanded others sacrifice for us. Forgive us, renew us, and humble us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Christ died and is risen for you. 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. Christ has sacrificed His life for us.**

Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, You are our great High Priest. Teach us to follow Your example of service and sacrifice for others, so that more people may know of the forgiveness that can only be found in You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

(God's new covenant)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent is taken from Jeremiah, Chapter 31:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 5:1–10

(Jesus is our great High Priest.)

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

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45

(The Son of Man came to serve and give His life.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th Chapter:

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

(And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”)

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Today's Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P: For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: **who became our sacrifice.**

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 and great High Priest, who suffered for us in order to make us perfect.

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, our great High Priest, we beg

You, O Lord, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who came to serve and give His life for us. 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 \mp 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 \mp 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. We ask that You would strengthen us as we journey toward Holy Week, trusting in Jesus, the source of eternal salvation; 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