

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

Sunday
February 25,
2024
Lent 2

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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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 Sunday in Lent

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

Opening Hymn

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" - Hymn 611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me - wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

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 - page 184

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.


Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

 **Kyrie** - page 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and the Collect of the Day - pages 189-190

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And with thy spirit.

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 be to Thee, O Lord.**

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 **C: Praise be to Thee, 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.

Hymn of the Day

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” - Hymn 425

**When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small
Love so amazing so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

 **Offertory** - page 192

**A: Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

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.

The Service of the Sacrament

Preface - page 194

 P: The Lord be with you.

 C: **And with thy spirit.**

 P: Lift up your hearts.

 C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

 C: **It is meet right so to do.**

Proper Preface - page 194

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. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

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.

The Words of Our Lord - spoken, page 197

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

Pax Domini - page 197-198

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

Agnus Dei - page 198

A: **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

Communion Dismissal - page 198

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
C: **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis - page 198-199

A: **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving - page 200

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.
C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: Let us pray: 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.**

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy” - Hymn 434

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; setting: *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006

Text and music: Public domain