

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: Genuine Love

We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

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: Forms are now 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: This week, we continue our study of our Midweek theme - "Be Gracious to Me." Since we 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 John 3:16

(Jesus said) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Sunday

March 10, 2024

Lent 4

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Stephanie Coppola
Elder

Serving in Our Church Service Today: Stephanie Coppola,
Elder

Serving Next Sunday: Jody Wangerin

Sunday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

PALM SUNDAY READERS:

You can help our Palm Sunday church service by signing up to read. Copies of the readings are available on the table in the narthex. 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:

- Jeremiah 31:31–34 (God's new covenant)
- Hebrews 5:1–10 (Jesus is our great High Priest.)
- Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45 (The Son of Man came to serve and give His life.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" - Hymn 564
- "Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus" - Hymn 529
- "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" - Hymn 919

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

March 9 & 10 - Lent 3

- **Lenten Midweek @ Holy Trinity** - Wednesday, March 13, beginning at 7:00pm
- **Lenten Midweek @ Saint Matthew's** - Thursday, March 14, 11:00am and 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 16 - 5:00pm @ Saint Matthew's
- Sunday, March 17 - 9:30am @ Saint Matthew's
- Sunday, March 17 - 11:30am @ Holy Trinity



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Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Opening Hymn

"My Song is Love Unknown" - Hymn 430

**My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?**

**He comes from His blest throne, Salvation to bestow
But men made strange, and none The longed for Christ would know
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed
Who at my need His life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing
Resounding all the day Hosanna's to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath
And for His death They thirst and cry.**

**Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease and 'gainst Him rise.**

**They rise and meeds will have My dear Lord made away
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suffering goes
That He his does From thence might free.**

**In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend!**

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–83

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text: Public domain

Invocation & Opening Sentences

John 3:16

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

C: **Amen.**

P: God so loved the world,

C: **that He gave His only Son,**

P: that whoever believes in Him should not perish

C: **but have eternal life.**

P: Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,

C: **and then to the resurrection and eternal life.**

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.**

**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

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

E: Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, You have loved us with an everlasting love that grants us eternal life. Burn Your love ever stronger within our hearts, Lord, so that we may love others as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

(Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is taken from Numbers, Chapter 21:

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

(We are saved by grace through faith.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Ephesians, Chapter 2:

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of

our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.


C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 3:14–21

(God so loved the world.)


P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter:

 **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

(Jesus said) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

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

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” - Hymn 571

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grant the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug;
setting: *Württembergisches Neues Choralbuch*, 1956

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 1956 Bärenreiter

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 Hymn 423, "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"


P: Jesus, may our hearts be burning
C: **with more fervent love for You.**

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 so loved the world that He was lifted upon the tree of the cross in order to draw all people to Himself. 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 \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.

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 \mp 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

E: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

E: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal where we receive Your genuine love. Keep us firm in faith and increase our love of You and our neighbors; through 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

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

E: 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

“Jesus Loves Me” - Hymn 588

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gates to open wide
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68

Text and music: Public domain