

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: Disruptive Jesus

In our Gospel today, we find Jesus clearing the temple of all those who have made it a house of trade. Jesus disrupts not just the sinfulness of these practices, showing a different side of Him than we expect to see. He also disrupted the status quo—everyday realities that had come to be accepted in the temple. May Jesus so disrupt our lives where it is needed.

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.

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 Gracious 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 1 Corinthians 1:25

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Sunday
March 3, 2024
Lent 3

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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OFFICERS
Edwin Geiger
Congregational President

Thomas Williams
Congregational Treasurer

Stephanie Coppola
Elder



Serving in Our Church Service This Sunday:

Fellowship Sunday

Sunday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

Serving Next Sunday: Stephanie Coppola, Elder

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:

- Numbers 21:4–9 (Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.)
- Ephesians 2:1–10 (We are saved by grace through faith.)
- John 3:14–21 (God so loved the world.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "My Song is Love Unknown" - Hymn 430
- "God Loved the World So That He Gave" - Hymn 571
- "Jesus Loves Me" - Hymn 588

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

March 9 & 10 - Lent 3

- At Saint Matthew's - Saturday, March 9, beginning at 5:00pm
- At Saint Matthew's - Sunday, March 10, beginning at 9:30am
- At Holy Trinity - Sunday, March 10, beginning at 11:30am
- At Holy Trinity - Wednesday, March 13, beginning at 7:30am
- At Saint Matthew's - Thursday, March 14, beginning at noon
- At Saint Matthew's - Thursday, March 14, beginning at 7:00pm
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Third Sunday in Lent

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

Opening Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" - Hymn 427

**In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive and fears annoy
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming, Light and love upon my way
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958, alt.

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: God invites us to gather in His name.

C: **We are gathered to worship and praise.**

P: Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

C: **He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.**

P: We listen to God's Word.

C: **We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.**

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 righteousness You disrupted the sinful lives of those in the temple, pointing them to the purpose of Your Father's house. Disrupt our sinful lives so that our church would be a home of prayer for all the nations; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

(God offers ten words for the people He delivered from Egypt.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent is taken from Exodus, Chapter 20:

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

(We preach Christ crucified.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from First Corinthians, Chapter 1:

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.


C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

John 2:13–22 (23–25)

(Jesus cleanses the temple.)


P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 2nd Chapter:

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

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 C: **Praise be to Thee, 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.

Hymn of the Day

"The Law of God is Good and Wise" - Hymn 579

**The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes
Shows us the way of righteousness, And doom to death when we transgress**

**Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate And turn from sin before too late.**

**To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.**

**But those who scornfully disdain God's Law shall then in sin remain
Its terror in their ear resounds And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**

**The Law is good; but since the fall Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no pow'r to justify.**

**To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

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 422, "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

P: On our hearts imprint Your image,
C: **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

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 gave the temple of His body over to be crucified on the cross, then raised it up on the third day, just as He promised. 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

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. Keep us steadfast in the true faith, ever hearing and proclaiming Christ crucified for all; 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

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" - Hymn 707

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my god would grant me grace To know and do His will!**

**Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in Thy commands - 'Tis a delightful road
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain