The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Melody

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

 → one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. C: Amen.
- P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- P: Holy God,
- C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW # 337

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

*KYRIE *ELW # S147*

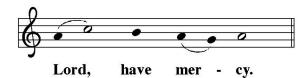


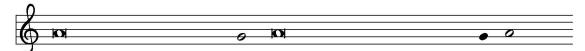
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





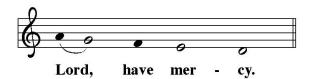
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

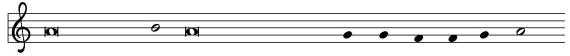




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

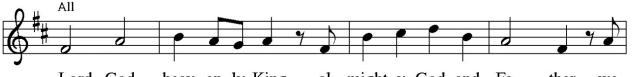




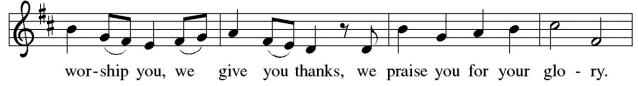
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



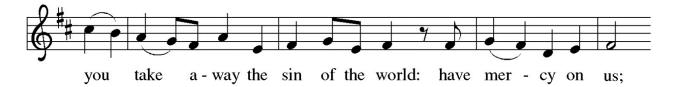
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we















*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says 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. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-12 (read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,

today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

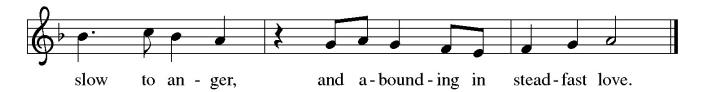
"You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.





*Gospel: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Pastor Traci



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Don and Christine Bulger

*APOSTLES' CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 - I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 - I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.
- A: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. C: Amen.

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

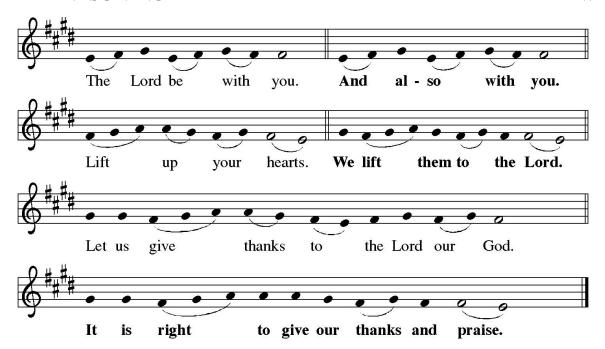
*Offertory Prayer

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

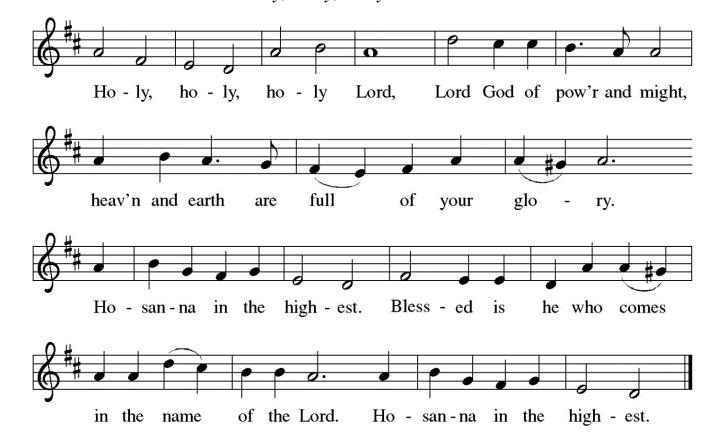
ELW # S152



*PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P:Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

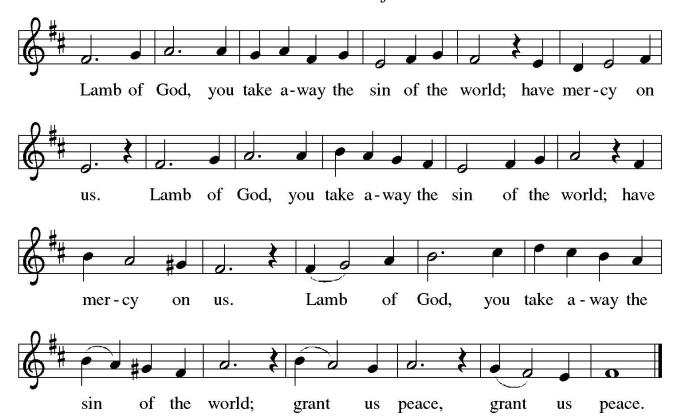
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *C:* Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:





*INVITATION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life *C*: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG

I Bind unto Myself Today

ELW # 450

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Cujus Animan

Composer, G. A. Rossini

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Jay Hoenstine

Our Lector – Lori Tremmel

Our Acolyte - Norah Kuster

Our Usher – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Jane Fagans

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Tues. 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick Baked Potato Bar & Game Day,

Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm

Wednesday – Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m.

Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:15 pm Lenten Service, Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 am

Saturday – Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

Martinsburg Volunteer Firehall 7:00-11:00 am

Sunday – Palm Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

Prayer Concerns: Dawn Alexy, Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the Carl Alexy family upon his death on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Lent of Love

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and worship on the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Dinner is at 6:15PM & Evening Prayer is at 7PM. Each worship service will focus on a biblical story about different aspects of love.



Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services

Beginning Wednesday, February 21, a mid-week Lenten meal will be prepared and served for anyone wishing to attend. The soup and sandwich meal will be served at 6:15 pm; the Mid-week Lenten service will begin at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Social Ministry Committee will deliver soup and a sandwich to the shut-ins. Everyone is invited to attend and join in the fellowship of sharing a meal and worship together

March 20 Potato soup and ham and cheese sliders



We officially welcome Don and Christine Bulger to the St. Matthew congregation by letter of transfer.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from the Grace Brethren Church will be helping, along with the regulars, to distribute food on March 21 from 9:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



March items most needed are: Cereal, Fruit, Scalloped Potatoes, Pancake Mix, Syrup and Toilet Paper These or any items can be placed in the basket at the church.

> Many thanks for the February donations! Linda Smith

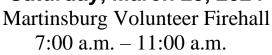






Boy Scout Troop 358

Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 23, 2024



By Donation



Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, March 29^{th} , from 6:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. **Please sign up by Monday**,

March 25th If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 814-793-2413.

Church Messenger

The March 2024 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Office Closure During Inclement Weather



On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



- 1 A las! And did my Sav ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
- 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up on the tree?
- 3 Well might the sun in dark ness hide and shut its glo ries in
- 4 Thus might I hide my blush ing face while his dear cross ap pears,
- 5 But tears of grief can not re pay the debt of love I owe;



that sa - cred head Would he de - vote for sin - ners such I? A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree! when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea-tures' sin. in thank-ful - ness, dis - solve my heart and melt my eyes to tears. here, Lord, I give my-self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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