

*St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2023

11:00 A.M.



The  
Prodigal  
Son

## OUR MISSION

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.

### ***WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH***

We welcome all who worship with us today. We gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God. Ushers are available to answer any of your questions. The church is equipped with a hearing impaired system. If you need a listening device, it may be obtained from an usher. In the minutes prior to the beginning of each service, the doors to the nave are closed, and quiet is encouraged. Music is offered which prepares worshippers to receive God's gifts from His Hand – the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**Celebrating Holy Communion:** We believe, teach, and confess Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All *baptized* Christians, who share this belief, are invited to receive Jesus as He comes in the Holy Communion to forgive the sins of the penitent. Children and others who are not yet receiving the sacrament, or who choose not to commune with us, are invited to come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest.

As we continue our return to our pre-Covid practice, ushers will direct you to the altar where you may kneel or stand. Please continue to receive the host in your flattened palm. If you cannot receive alcohol, please inform the pastor before the host is dipped in the chalice. If you need a gluten free host, please ask before the host is dipped in the chalice. Once you have communed, please return to your seat. If you need to be communed at your seat, please inform an usher. The pastor(s) will come to you.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Dr. Lawrence and Rebecca Knott, and by Dusty Pilcher in loving memory of his father, Julian R. Pilcher.

**Sunday School** is sponsored by Bonnie Berg in honor of her daughter, Erica.

**RETURN TO THE LORD, YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE!** On this Third Sunday in Lent, Pastor Michael Bergbower, our Visitation Pastor, serves as our guest preacher this weekend and proclaims the unmerited grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ. In Lent, we return, like the prodigal son, to our Baptisms and renounce the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh that relentlessly attack us where we are most vulnerable. Our gracious Lord has stretched out His arms on the cross for us and our salvation that we may hasten to our heavenly Father's waiting arms and be welcomed as His beloved children for Jesus' sake.

Pastor Zumwalt had his quarterly spiritual retreat at the first of this week, and his family and he have enjoyed some time together during their daughter's spring break. Pastor Zumwalt will be back in the office on Monday, March 13, and all normal classes and meetings will resume. Another of our retired pastors, Father Peter Hoyer is our guest preacher again on Wednesday, March 15, continuing the Midweek Lenten look at what Martin Luther's Small Catechism teaches about Holy Communion.

I will strive to ... **Pray daily**  
**Worship weekly**  
**Read the Bible**  
**Serve at and beyond St. Matthew's**  
**Be in Relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others**  
**Give of my time, talents and resources**

### Those Serving in Worship

**Greeters:**

**Lector:** Bev Miller

**Altar Guild:** Lynette Farmer

**Ushers:**

**Acolytes:** David Medlin



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(\*Please stand as you are able.)

**Silence for Meditation**

**PRELUDE**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

**Dale Wood**

**WELCOME**

**\* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Most merciful God,

**Congregation: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**\* OPENING HYMN**

*O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

**LBW 356**



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with  
3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
all to call on you; to those who seek you, you are  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
good; to those who find you, life is new.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.  
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

**\* THE GREETING**

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**\* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty God, consider the worthy desires of your humble servants. Reach out to defend us from evil by the word and work of your Majestic Right Hand. Through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7**

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 95**

Oh come, let us sing / to the LORD;\*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of / our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence / with thanksgiving;\***

**let us make a joyful noise to him with / songs of praise!**

For the LORD is / a great God,\*

and a great King a- / bove all gods.

**In his hand are the depths / of the earth;\***

**the heights of the mountains are / his also.**

The sea is his, / for he made it,\*

and his hands formed / the dry land.

**Oh come, let us worship / and bow down;\***

**let us kneel before the / LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep / of his hand.\*

Today, if you / hear his voice,

**do not harden your hearts, as at / Meribah,\***

**as on the day at Massah / in the wilderness,**

when your fathers put me / to the test\*

and put me to the proof, though they had / seen my work.

**For forty years I loathed that / generation\***

**and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,**

**and they have not / known my ways."**

Therefore I swore / in my wrath,\*

"They shall not ent- / er my rest."

**Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,\* and to the / Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the begin- / ning, is now,\* and will be forev- / er. Amen.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **\* THE VERSE**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### **\* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Pastor: The HOLY GOSPEL according to St. John, the fourth chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him."<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"<sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,<sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"<sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to him.<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" (continued)

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**\* THE GOSPEL RESPONSE**



**THE SERMON**

**“Holy Communion: Prodigal People; Prodigal Son”**

**Pr. Bergbower**

**\* THE HYMN OF THE DAY**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

**LBW 479**



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**\* THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy.

**Congregation: Hear our prayers.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* SHARING THE PEACE**

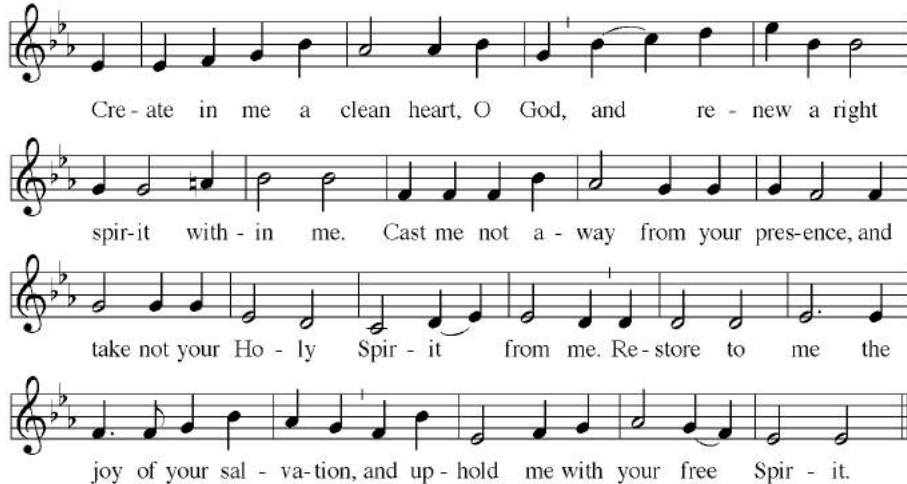
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**THE OFFERING**

*Lift Up Your Hearts*  
**Handbells**

**\* THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\* THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Eternal Father,

**Congregation: we watch and wait in hope for spring. By these offerings we confess our faith that you will surround us with new life. Revive us with the season that through us you may provide more daily bread for all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\* THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor: Holy God...until he comes.

**Congregation: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Therefore, gracious Father...great and promised feast.

**Congregation: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Send now, we pray...your saints in light.

**Congregation: Amen, Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Join our prayers...Lord of all.

☩ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty  
of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is  
yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

**\* THE LORDS PRAYER**

**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 DISTRIBUTION** (*An usher will direct you to the altar rail.*)

☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev-ers bur-dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen-tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;<br/>I would be your trusted friend.<br/>Come and seek the gift I offer,<br/>come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;<br/>lonely ways no longer roam.<br/>Come and take the gift I offer,<br/>let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> |
|--|---|

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

LBW 327



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: *Neu-verfertgtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699;  
 setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

### \* THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May this the body and this the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Congregation: Amen.

### \* THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come, bring peace, good will to men.

**\* THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you plainly teach that in this meal there is forgiveness through your body and your blood. By the Holy Spirit, help us trust this promise, building lives of service to those in need. We bless you now and evermore.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**Congregation: I will strive to pray daily, worship weekly, read the Bible, serve at and beyond St. Matthew's, be in relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others, and give of my time, talents, and resources.**

**\* THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

*(At this time anyone desiring prayer for healing is invited to approach the altar rail.)*



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.  
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-90, alt.

Music: *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813

**\* THE DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

***Trumpet Tune***

**Jerry McCrory**

**LESSONS for NEXT WEEK:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

## Holy Communion: Prodigal People; Prodigal Son

### Praying

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen” (*The Daily Prayer of the Church, 982*).

### Listening

*Exodus 17:3 “But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses,”*

St. Caesarius [6<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Arles, France]: “Perhaps this word that he said may seem superfluous, that the people thirsted for water... Why did he add this, except they thirsted for water when they should have thirsted for justice...? Many people are thirsty, both the just and sinners; the former thirst after justice, the latter after dissipation. The just are thirsty for God; sinners for gold. For this reason, the people thirsted after water when they should have thirsted after justice” (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Exodus, 90*).

*Exodus 17:4 “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”*

St. Jerome [Late 4<sup>th</sup> – early 5<sup>th</sup> century Translator of the Latin Vulgate Bible]: “When Moses was being stoned by the people, he made intercession for them. Even more so he wished to be blotted out of God’s book sooner than that the flock committed to him should perish. He sought to imitate the Shepherd who would, he knew, carry on his shoulders even the wandering sheep” (90).

*Exodus 17:6 “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock,”*

St. Caesarius of Arles: “However, unless this rock is struck, it does not have any water at all. But when it has been struck, it produces fountains and rivers, as we read in the Gospel: ‘He who believes in me, from within him there shall flow rivers of living water.’ When Christ was struck on the cross, he brought forth the fountains of the New Testament. Therefore it was necessary for him to be pierced. If he had not been struck, so that water and blood flowed from his side, the whole world would have perished through suffering thirst for the Word of God.” (90).

*Exodus 17:6 “... and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”*

St. Ambrose [4<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Milan, Italy]: “The people of the fathers thirsted, Moses touched the rock, and water flowed out of the rock. Did not grace work a result contrary to nature, so that the rock poured forth water, which by nature it did not contain?” (90).

*Exodus 17:6 “... and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”*

St. Ambrose: “It does not surpass faith that a virgin gave birth, when we read that even a rock poured out water and that the waves of the sea were made solid in the form of a wall” (90).

### Reflecting

1. Do I come to the Lord’s altar thirsting for the Living God, who has promised to be there?

## **Learning**

### **CONFESSION (from Luther's Small Catechism)**

#### **How Christians should be taught to confess.**

*Which are these (sins)?*

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

#### **Doing**

1. Pray for every unbaptized child and adult you know and for the child's parents, too. Place their pictures and/or names in a prominent place as a reminder to pray for them
2. Pray for your unchurched loved ones and friends. Place their pictures and/or names in a prominent place as a reminder to pray for them. Invite one or more of them to worship.
3. Discuss with your spouse, your family, or a friend how and when individual confession of sins before a pastor might be vital and even necessary for a Christian.
4. Consult Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 181, for the daily lessons appointed for the week of Lent 3 (Year One) and read them daily before offering your prayers on behalf of your family, the world, our nation, our state, and our local communities.
5. Do not fearfully dismiss your need for individual confession as if regular public confession in worship or silent confession in your head were enough when you find yourself regularly tormented by a particular sin you have committed. Ask for God's help to face your fears.
6. Keep a holy Lent, the time of baptismal renewal and of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, by adding midweek worship to your calendar.

#### **For Husbands and Wives**

Repeat daily: "I (name) take you (name) to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith."

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*The family of Peggy Barr, The family of Kathie Tucker, Joanne Purnell, Bill Baldwin, Arthur Moore, Wanda Slocum, Barbara Haack, Sally Jo Capozio, Joe Ramm, Nell Walker, Bp. Tim Smith, Dalton, Christine Dingfelder, Steve Weidman, Larry Troutman, Maggie Hoyer, Harry Puckett*

**MEMBERS**

Regina Ryder	Carrie McDonough	Sheila Leach
Keith Farmer	Gabriela Walters	Dusty Pilcher
Donna Siegmund	Terry Miller	Cindy Harms
Kenn Slocum	John Tullous	Becky Howard
Pat Mahl	Denis Hall	Carol Comeskey
Liz Newbery	Lynette Farmer	Melissa Shaver
George Schwenger	Peggy Davis	Gina Martuscelli
Lani Beuerman	Tina Medlin	Dave Medlin
Pr. Marv Schedler	Carolyn Hooker	Joe Mayfield
Lon Ostby	Nate Holway	Helen Knoll
Laura Matthess	Joel Peterson	Barbara Duff
Micki Matthess	Barbara Moore	Greg Adams
Jane and Willard Dove	Ken Manning	Howard Beuerman
Ed Ludacer	Alex Schwartz	
Leslie Long	Butch Ruefle	

**FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS**

Amie Knauer	Elena Scalora	Deanna Hart
Barbara Colton	Mary Miller	Annie and Elizabeth Ferry
Kattie Duff	David Searle	Julia Bennett
David Schwartz	Heidi Baldwin	Jennifer Stirrat
John Tullous, Jr.	Ashley Lawson	Jean Langrall
David Hunsberger	Kathryn Webster	Cynthia Brown
Jo Beth Brinkley	Tom Seip	Wilma Reed
Hudson Dingfelder	Melvin Proctor	George Taft
Rufus Horne	David Case	Pr. Harry Wolpert
Jim Campbell	Jim Villa	Sue Brehm
Gene and Marian Poythress	Corrie Formica	Jack Bell
Peter Thomas	Lloyd Moore	Terry Caldwell
Alice Copeland	Beth Jarrott	David Logan
Megan McKinney	Sharon Hatcher	Mary Cromarti
Ron Bloom	Barbara Brennaman	Mary Pat Jones
Wilhelmina Stanland	Patricia Kucker	

**REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:**

Elsie Cates	Ruthann Getsinger	Jane McDougald
Nancy Fauser	Laura Gray	Nancy Miller

<b><u>Operating Fund: February 2023</u></b>		
	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	33,046.87	70,546.62
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>41,539.44</u>	<u>78,887.12</u>
<b>Income/ (Loss)</b>	(8,492.57)	(8,340.50)

<b>2023 Annual Budget</b>	<b>638,707.00</b>
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<b><u>Offerings Received through March 5</u></b>	
<b>Projected receipts:</b>	53,226.00
<b>Received this month:</b>	<u>10,084.15</u>
<b>Additional anticipated:</b>	43,141.85

<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
<b>Projected March expenses:</b>	65,692.00
<b>Bills paid to date:</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>Anticipated remaining:</b>	65,692.00

### Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday - Eucharist, 6 p.m.    Sunday - Traditional Eucharist, 8:30 and 11 a.m.    Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays - Contemporary Eucharist, 8:30 a.m.    Monday - Evening Prayer and Bible Study, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 p.m.

A nursery is provided for all Sunday Services and during the Sunday School hour.

**First Time Visitors** - Please stop by our *Welcome Center* to sign our guest book and get information about St. Matthew's.

Baby changing tables are available in the two restrooms across from the church offices and in the nursery.

### This Week at St. Matthew's

#### **Sunday, March 12 Third Sunday in Lent**

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

#### **Monday, March 13**

9:00 Counting Team

12:00 Conversations - Rm. 117

6:00 Evening Prayer

7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

7:00 Harbour Towne Band - Choir Room

#### **Tuesday, March 14**

10:00 Prayer Group - Nursery

10:00 Staff Meeting - Rm. 117

10:00 Faith Circle - Library

1:00 Peace Circle

5:15 Girls Choir of Wilmington - Choir Room

6:00 Girl Scouts 354 - Rm. 117

#### **Wednesday, March 15**

8:30 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - McCombs

12:00 Lenten Eucharist

6:00 Handbells

6:00 Crossways

7:00 Lenten Evening Prayer

7:30 Confirmation Class

7:30 Adult Choir

#### **Thursday, March 16**

10:00 Crossways

10:00 Quilt Ministry - Rm. 117

7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

#### **Friday, March 17**

#### **Saturday, March 18 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

6:00 Eucharist

#### **Sunday, March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

12:30 Grief Support Group - Library

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Easter Lily order forms are available in the Narthex.**

Plants and/or donations to the Building Fund are \$8.00 each.

Please place your form and payment in the offering plate.

Deadline for order forms and payments is March 23rd.

**All worship server sign-ups for March and April are now located in the Narthex on the back wall.** Many slots are open for Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes and Crucifers, and Altar Guild. Please consider signing up and if you have any questions, contact Donna Capozio (dcapezio@stmatthewsch.org)

**The Endowment Team** has funds available of \$51,260 for 2023 disbursement for requests that support the mission of St. Matthew's. Teams, organizations, or individuals of the church may now submit Endowment Fund Disbursement Request forms no later than March 31, 2023. Forms are available in the Church Finance office. In accordance with the Endowment Fund Charter "disbursements shall not be made to meet operating budget expenses."

**The Christkindlmarkt Team** is offering a Lenten T-shirt designed by Tina Medlin. The profits from our marketing activities will go for new office furnishings. A picture of the T-shirt and order forms are in the Narthex. Please make payment at the time of order. Our goal is to deliver them by Palm Sunday. Thank you for your generous support.

April 2, 9, 16, and 30 are still open for Altar flowers. See the chart in the Narthex and please fill out the yellow information form when you sign up.

**The 2023 Hospice Meals still has the following dates open:** June 23, July 28, Aug. 4 & 25, Oct. 6 & 27, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1 & 22. Please see details and sign-up on the board in the Narthex. If you have questions, Sue Mowrey will be happy to help.

**First Communion Class and Pizza lunch is March 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30pm.** One parent or guardian must attend with the student. Please sign up on the board in the Narthex, and be sure to indicate if you will be having pizza.

**Owl's Luncheon** is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am in McCombs. The meal is from Middle of the Island for \$15 per person, and the menu is fried pork chops, barbeque chicken, potato salad, green beans, house salad, and peach cobbler with ice cream. There will be a dice game after the meal for a \$3 donation if you would like to play. Proceeds will be donated to one of St. Matthew's mission projects. Sign up on the board in the Narthex.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church 612 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

910-791-4582 ♦ [www.stmatthewsch.org](http://www.stmatthewsch.org)

The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt ♦ [szumwalt@bellsouth.net](mailto:szumwalt@bellsouth.net)

