

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

“Arise,
anoint
him, for
this is he.”

1 Samuel 16:12



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 Lynette Farmer, and by Joe and Diane Rumsey in memory of loved ones.

Sunday School is sponsored by Lynette Farmer dedicated to the Glory of God.

RETURN TO THE LORD, YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE! We welcome you in Jesus' name to this celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Today, Vicar Robert Shivers preaches 1 Samuel 16:1-13. As he breaks open the Word of God for us, the Spirit of the Living God searches our hearts and minds to determine whether we look only on outward appearances rather than through them to the very heart of things. Samuel had to be taught by the Lord whom was to be His anointed. Likewise, the Holy Spirit must open the eyes of our hearts in order that we poor, miserable sinners may see as the Lord God would have us see and understand. As you approach the altar, know that hidden beneath the elements of bread and wine are the very Body and most precious Blood of the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. Come, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

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:

8:30

11:00

Lector:

8:30 - Sherri Hiler

11:00 - Marti Felter

Altar Guild:

8:30 - Karen Ruefle

11:00 - Lynette Farmer

Ushers:

8:30

11:00

Acolytes:

8:30

11:00



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(*Please stand as you are able.)

Silence for Meditation

THE PRELUDE

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

Eleanor Whitsett

THE 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.

*** THE OPENING HYMN**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, And
 2 To us on earth He came to bring From
 3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who
 4 For us Christ lived, for us He died, And

Christ shall give you light; So learn His love, its
 sin and fear re - lease, To give the Spir - it's
 died that He might save; With kind and gen - tle
 con - quered in the strife; A - wake, a - rise, go

length and breadth, Its full - ness, depth, and height.
 u - ni - ty, The ver - y bond of peace.
 hearts for - give As God in Christ for - gave.
 forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

*** 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.

*** KYRIE**

Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

*** THE SALUTATION**

Ⓐ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

*** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Forgive us, Almighty God, that we who deserve to be afflicted for what we do may by the encouragement of your grace begin anew. Through 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM 23

The LORD / is my shepherd;*

I / shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down / in green pastures:*

he leadeth me beside / the still waters.

He restor- / eth my soul:*

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness / for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will / fear no evil:*

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they / comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence / of mine enemies:*

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup / runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days / of my life:*

and I will dwell in the house of the / LORD for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the Son,*

and to the / Holy Ghost;

as it was in the begin- / ning, is now,*

and ever shall be world without / end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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 ninth chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*** THE GOSPEL RESPONSE**



THE SERMON

“Holy Communion: This Is the One”

Vicar Robert Shivers



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old St. An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 make us hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823–1895
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

* 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.

* THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* THE SHARING THE PEACE

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

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING (8:30)

My Soul, Be Still
 Adult Choir

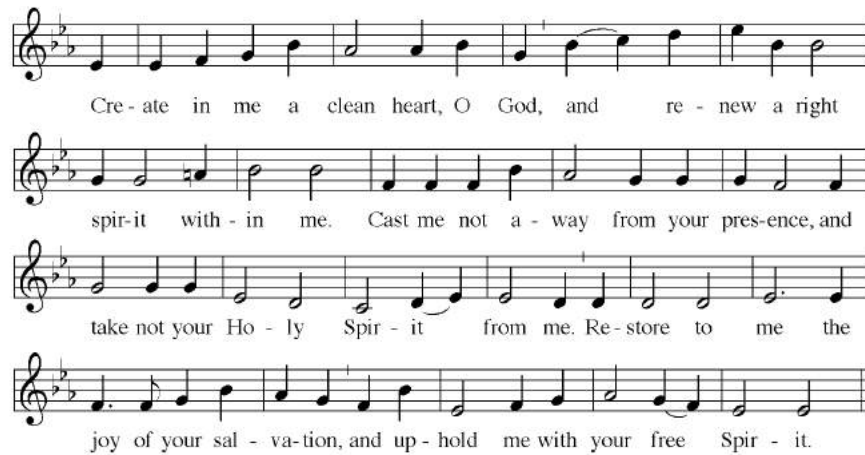
arr. Robert Sterling

(11:00)

Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart
 Teresa Hall, Annie Jewell, Fred Jackson, Kevin Ullisnik

Anna Laura Page

*** 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: Almighty Father,

Congregation: because you multiply the good your people do by faith, there is hope for our humble offerings. Watch over these gifts in order to fulfill your gracious will that we may rejoice to be part of your saving work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

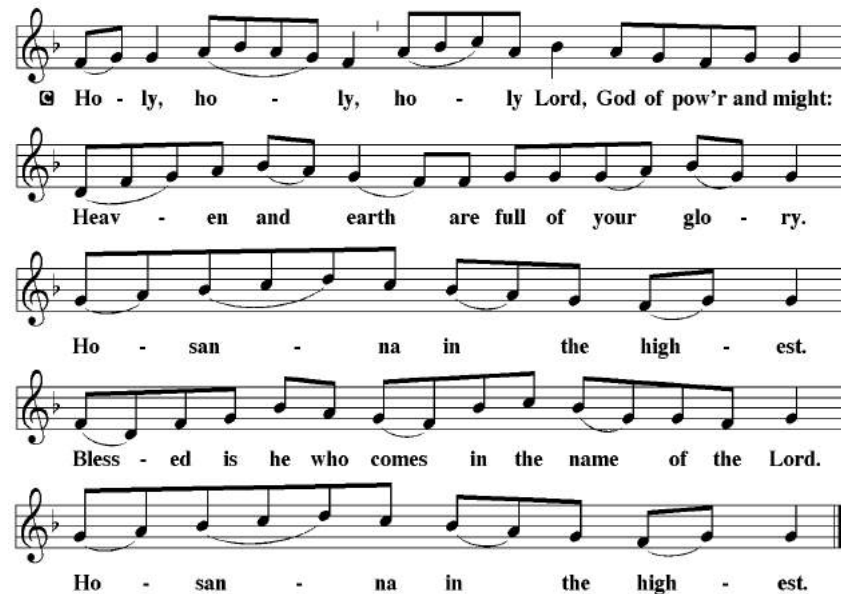
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Open Our Eyes, Lord

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je -

sus, to reach out and touch him, and


say that we love him. O - pen our ears,

Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our

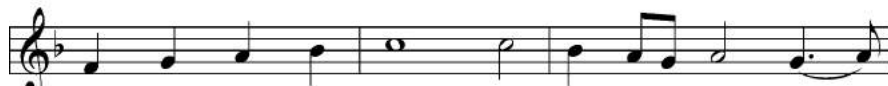
eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text: Bob Cull, b. 1949
 Music: OPEN OUR EYES, Bob Cull, b. 1949
 Text and music © 1976 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company. All rights reserved. International © secured.

O Son of God in Galilee



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
 2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
 3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
 4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
 5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
 Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
 can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
 stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
 loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
 You their care; Your grace to them make known.
 Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
 light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
 un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

Text: Abba B.D. Hoppe, 1889-1941, alt.; © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

*** 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: Father, we came to commune with Jesus, your Son, who became our brother, loving us more than he loved himself. By the power of his love which we have received in this sacrament, help us think of others to be true to the spirit of your grace. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

*** THE CLOSING HYMN**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

LBW 448

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



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"

LESSONS for NEXT WEEK:

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Holy Communion: This Is the One

Praying

Grant, we beseech you, almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace may mercifully be set free; 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*, 984).

Listening

1 Samuel 16:1 “Fill your horn with oil, and go.”

St. Gregory the Great [Late 6th – early 7th century Patriarch of Rome, Italy]: “Since a teacher ought to have the richness of great love, the king is said to have been anointed with a full horn of oil when he was ordered to be anointed. The fullness of the horn refers to the perseverance of the graces. For those who fail before they reach the end are not worthy to be anointed with a full horn of oil” (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: 1 Samuel*, 261).

1 Samuel 16:7 “... man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

St. Jerome [Late 4th – early 5th century translator of the Latin Vulgate Bible]: “He goes to Bethlehem and considers every son of Jesse to be the very person that the Lord was looking for ... He makes the same mistake in each case, and he is reproved in each case, giving evidence of the weakness of the human mind” (262).

1 Samuel 16:7 “... man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

St. Clement [2nd century apologist and catechist in Alexandria, Egypt]: “He finally anointed not the one who was fair in body but the one who was fair of soul. If the Lord places more importance on beauty of soul than on that of the body, what must he think of artificial beautification when he abhors so thoroughly every sort of lie?” (262).

1 Samuel 16:7 “... man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

St. Gregory of Nazianzus [4th century Patriarch of Constantinople, Turkey]: “Do not ask for credentials of the preacher or the baptizer. For another is his judge and the examiner of what you can’t see. For humans look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (262).

1 Samuel 16:13 “And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward”

Cassiodorus [6th century Roman senator and Christian scholar of antiquity]: “So, clearly holy David was filled with heavenly inspiration, and not through human actions, the birth of twins, angels, visions, a dream, a cloud and a voice from heaven, or any other way of that kind... The Lord himself too says in the Gospel: ‘If David in the spirit calls him Lord, how do you say he is his son?’ By these words we realize that the psalms were clearly expressions of prophecy through the Holy Spirit” (263).

Reflecting

1. Do you only look on the outward appearance of the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, and are, therefore, unable to see the very place where the Lord Jesus has promised to be “for you?”

Learning

CONFESSION (from Luther's Small Catechism)

How Christians should be taught to confess.

[Concerning the Office of the Keys] Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:22-23).

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

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 4 (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. We are two weeks away from Palm Sunday. Are you planning to keep the holiest week of the year by worshiping at as many of the daily services as you are able?

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

Nicole Anders, Elizabeth Anders, Vinny Swidorski, Gunder Swidorski, 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

<u>Operating Fund: February 2023</u>		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	33,046.87	70,546.62
Expenses:	<u>41,539.44</u>	<u>78,887.12</u>
Income/ (Loss)	(8,492.57)	(8,340.50)
2023 Annual Budget		638,707.00

<u>Operating Fund through March 12</u>	
Receipts	
Projected receipts:	53,226.00
Received this month:	<u>16,457.40</u>
Additional anticipated:	36,768.60
Expenses	
Projected March expenses:	65,692.00
Bills paid to date:	<u>13,230.31</u>
Anticipated remaining:	52,461.69
Anticipated Income/(Loss)	(15,693.09)

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 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 Traditional Eucharist
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Eucharist
12:30 Grief Support Group - Library

Monday, March 20

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 21

10:00 Prayer Group - Library
10:00 Staff Meeting - Rm. 117
5:15 Girls Choir of Wilmington - Choir Room
5:30 Joyful Noise - Nave
6:00 Girl Scouts 1327 - McCombs
6:30 Stephen Ministry - Rm. 117

Wednesday, March 22

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 23

10:00 Crossways
10:00 Quilt Ministry - Rm. 117
11:30 OWL's Luncheon - McCombs
6:00 MS/HS Youth
7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

Friday, March 24

Hospice Meal - Janet Hall

Saturday, March 25 Fifth Sunday in Lent

6:00 Eucharist

Sunday, March 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Eucharist
12:30 First Communion Class

The 2023 Hospice Meals still has the following dates open: April 28, 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, contact Sue Mowrey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Lily order forms are due today. Plants and/or donations to the Building Fund are \$8.00 each. Please place your form and payment in the offering plate.

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. Request forms are due **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. Profits from 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 and 9 are still open for Altar flowers. See the chart in the Narthex and please fill out the yellow information form when you sign up.

First Communion Class and Pizza lunch is March 26th 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 23rd 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 a St. Matthew's mission project.

The Young Adults and College Students Group will have a Movie Night on April 14th at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy a hot meal and a good movie in McCombs Hall. If you wish to join us, you are encouraged to please sign up on the big board in the commons so we may have a headcount.



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

910-791-4582 ♦ www.stmatthewsch.org

The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt ♦ szumwalt@bellsouth.net