



**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY**

*12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Service*

**February 22, 2023**

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Website: [www.STMATTHEWLC.com](http://www.STMATTHEWLC.com)

Rev. Traci Marriott

814-935-9267

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

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

*C:* Amen

### **Psalm 51 - Read Responsively**

*P:* Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

*C:* **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

*P:* Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. So you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

*C:* **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. You look for truth within me and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

*P:* Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

*C:* **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

*P:* I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

*C:* **Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*P:* Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

*C:* **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

*P:* Be favorable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

*C:* **Then you will delight with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt offerings and oblations; then shall they offer young bulls upon your altar.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved*

*ELW # 602*

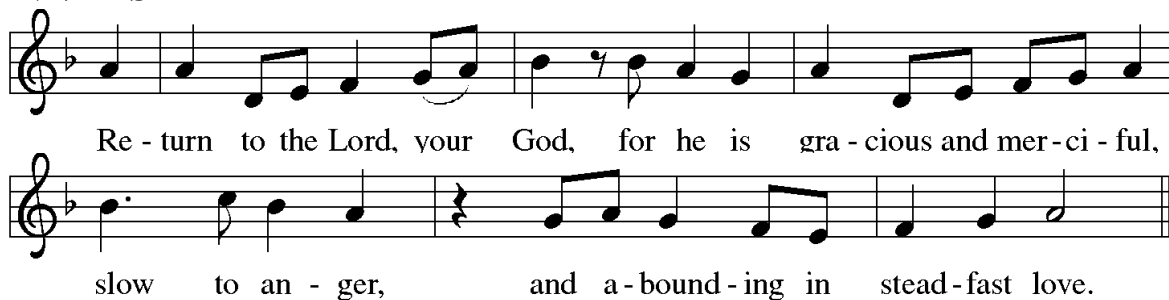
## FIRST LESSON *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come. <sup>12</sup>“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”<sup>13</sup>Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.<sup>14</sup>Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.<sup>16</sup>Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

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

### \*LENTEN 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.

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### \*GOSPEL

*P:* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

*C:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

<sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

*ELW # 606*

**THE EXHORTATION**

*P:* Siblings in Christ: We were created to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve the Lord, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking God for strength to persevere in Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## THE CONFESSION

*Please remain seated for the confession.*

*P:* Most holy and merciful Father:

**C:** We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

*P:* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*P:* Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*P:* Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that we may turn from our wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things which we do on this day and the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

*If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward down the center aisle.*

## **Imposition of Ashes**

*Pastor Traci will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:  
“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

## **Hymn**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW # 336*

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.***

*P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.***

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*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.*

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

***C: 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***



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to  
 2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to



save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -  
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from



on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei

Music: THE SUFFOLK MIRACLE, Appalachian traditional

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### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P:* Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

### \*THE POST –COMMUNION BLESSING

*P:* May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*P: Let us pray...* We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen**

### \*BENEDICTION

*P:* Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

**C: Amen**

*The service ends in silence.*

*If you would like to stay and meditate, please do so.*

*Those wishing to leave, please do so in silence.*

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded.

## **This Week Events**

Today            Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday –        Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
                    Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:45 a.m.  
                    Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

### **Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew  
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott  
Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith  
Our Organist – Mary Nelson  
Our Missionary Family – On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson  
Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel  
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck  
Our Sexton – Phil Claar  
Our Lector (7:00 p.m.) – Peggy Steinfurth  
Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal  
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster  
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”**

### **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

Volunteers distribute food on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

**The Items most needed are:** Sunny D Drink, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken and Paper Towels. *Linda Smith*





## Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 7, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour at home 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.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Melissa Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, John Steele, Cindy Thomas, John Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

**Those Serving in the Army Overseas:** Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.

## Church Messenger

The February 2023 *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.

## Wednesday Yoga Session

Beginning Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Yoga will not meet because of our Lenten Schedule. Watch the bulletin and Messenger to see when Yoga will resume.



### **Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services**

The Fellowship Committee announced that mid-week Lenten Meals will again be offered on Wednesdays prior to the service. The meal consisting of soup and sandwich will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Soup and sandwich or salad will be prepared and served along with hot/cold beverages. If the committee in charge of preparing the meal prefers, a dessert may be offered. Enough soup will be prepared so that containers can be delivered to shut-in members.

Below is the schedule for menus, and the committee who will prepare and serve the meal:

**March 1** Potato Soup and Ham Salad Sandwiches  
Fellowship Committee

**March 8** Beef & Vegetable Soup, Bread, & Applesauce  
Smith Cousins

**March 15** Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches  
Christian Ed. Committee

**March 22** **Open need volunteer**

**March 29** Broccoli Cheese Soup and Ox Roast Sandwiches  
Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee would like to take soup to the homebound on Thursdays during the season of Lent. A list of homebound members is in place. However, if you would like someone to deliver soup to you, please contact the church office to have your name placed on the list.

Fellowship Committee along with the other committees who will provide meals, look forward to this time of fellowship and serving the community.