

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

8:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



We give thanks for improving local conditions regarding Covid-19: fewer folks in our area are testing positive, being hospitalized, or dying from the virus. In light of these changes, and out of consideration for our members who remain medically vulnerable or care for those who are, we are inviting members at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday and Lenten Wednesday services to choose whether or not to wear a mask, except while singing when we ask everyone to mask. We ask that members continue to wear a mask throughout the whole 8:30 a.m. Sunday service, and we recommend the 8:30 a.m. service for those who want to attend in person but who are at higher risk. Please continue to test if you have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and please participate in worship from home by livestream if you feel ill, are awaiting test results, or have recently tested positive. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect and care for one another.

Everyone Is Invited to Sing All the Hymns While Remaining Masked

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **C Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy one,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. **Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **C Amen.**

Pastor

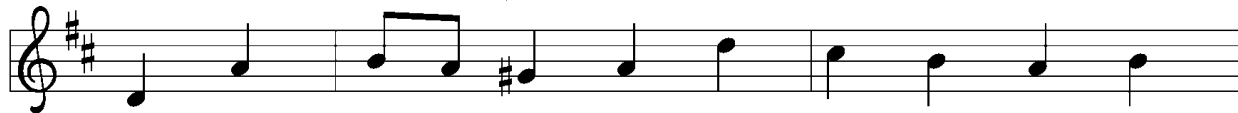


1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: ZŇAME TO, PANE BOŹE NÁŠ, *Transcius*, 1636
 Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Let us pray ...* Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM 63:1-8 (To be read responsively.)

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

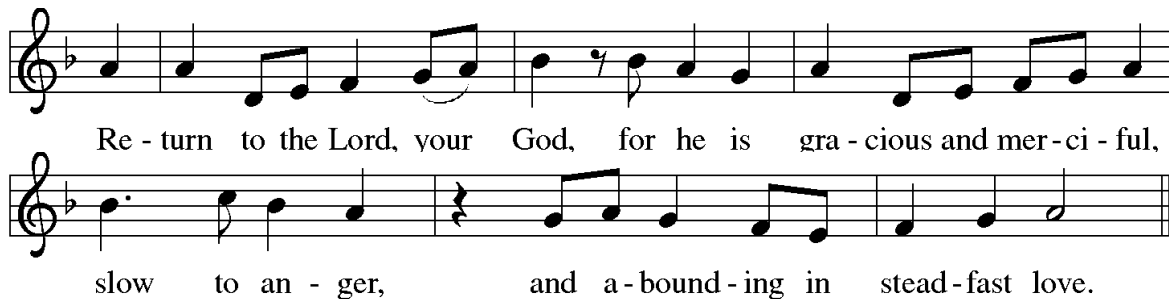
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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.

***Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW # 335

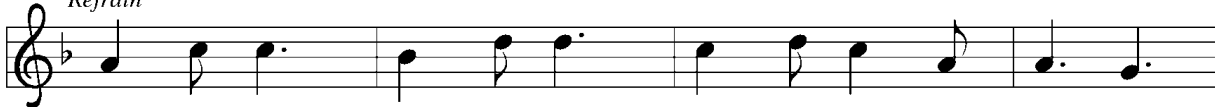


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS THROUGH TRANSFER

*CREED

P Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P We thank you, Lord, for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be All-in-All. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **C Amen.**

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

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **C Amen.**

***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

The Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, to Earth You Come

OLS # 7



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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P Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

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 Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **C Amen.**

Blessing

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always. **C Amen.**

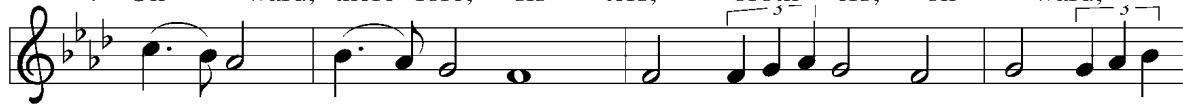
*SENDING SONG

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

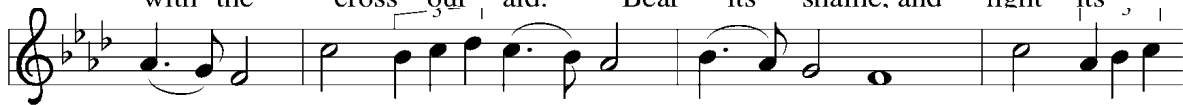
ELW # 327



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



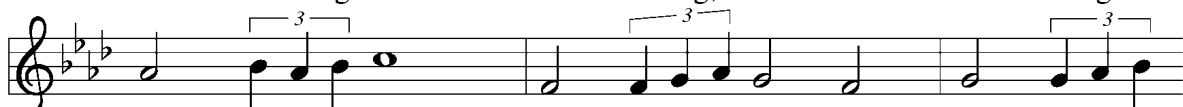
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



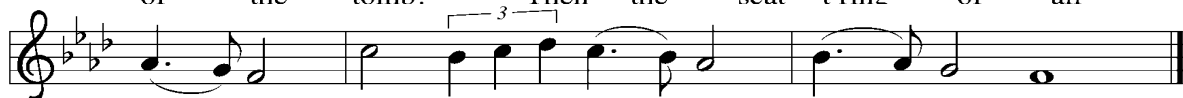
ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **C Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or
live-streamed on social media.**

Winter Weather

If we experience severe winter weather on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, please check Facebook and your email to see if in-person worship and Sunday school are canceled. Please always use caution when driving and remember that services are available by livestream and video. If in-person worship is canceled, a brief Service of the Word will be livestreamed on Facebook.

Please notify the office if you need a telephone call when worship is canceled.

Church Messenger

The March 2022 *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.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open on the first and third Thursdays of the month to distribute food items from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and other times by appointment.

The March items most needed are: Sunny D Juice, Cereal, Ravioli, Jello, and Dish Detergent. These or any items can be placed in the basket at church. Thank You!

Linda Smith

Office Hours This Week:

Pastor Traci – Tues. 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Office Hours – Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Lori Tremmel

This Week Events

- Today – Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.
- Monday – Worship & Music Meeting, via Zoom 6:00 p.m.
 Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. FH
- Tuesday Synod Spring Conference, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.
 Yoga, Nursery 4:45 p.m.
 Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
 Lenten Service, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday – Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 15th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 793-2413.

Volunteers Needed

Worship and Music Committee is looking for a volunteer to serve as Head Usher. Responsibilities include scheduling Ushers for worship services; maintain a current list of volunteers for Ushers; and Mentoring Ushers on new procedures, etc. Please contact Jane Fagans at 793-4401 or text at 327-0786 if you would like to fill this vacancy.

Summer Camp at Sequanota

Reminder: The Early Bird Deadline for Camp Sequanota is April 1st. Campers' families are asked to pay the \$100 online deposit and St. Matthew will cover the rest of the cost of regular cabin camp (or 100% of the fee for Confirmation Camp); campers can bring a friend and St. Matthew will also cover their cost, less the deposit. Registering early is the most economical option and helps us help you get to camp.

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 Acolyte – Lucy Lightner

Our Lector – Carla Brumbaugh

Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith, Elaine Buchart

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Bill Stahl, Norm Tremmel, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Mike Lovell, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Pastor Drahus Oslikova, Deb Peters, Linda Piper, Jensine Reese, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Don Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Jean White, Pete Williams, Jim & Ginny Zeek, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany)

Welcome to the Family of St. Matthew through Transfer:

- Thomas (Tom) and Barbara (Bobbie) Fishburn, Martinsburg, PA
- Blake Peese, Verona, PA