

## *The Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**March 26, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle.*

*Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

*Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days and sustains us with the gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

*P:* Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*P:* Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

*P:* Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **C: Amen.**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

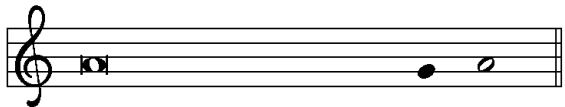
*ELW # 751*

#### **GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**

*ELW # S 147*



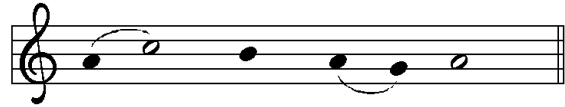
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



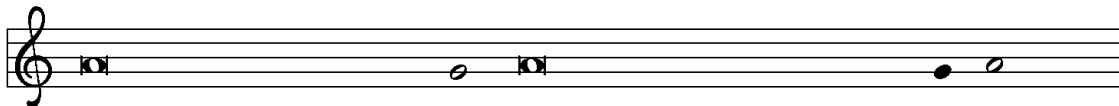
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



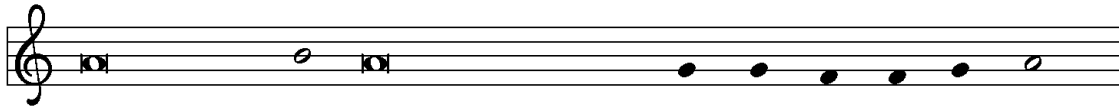
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



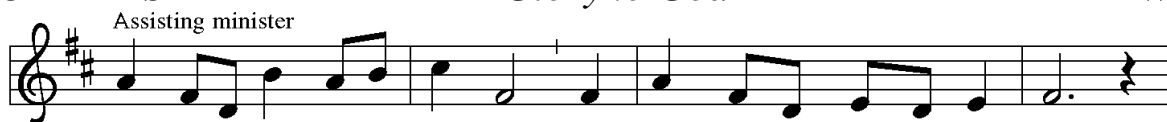
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



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



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



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



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P:* Let us pray ... Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O LORD GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the LORD GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’

<sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

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

## **Psalm 130 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the LORD more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW # S 151b

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.

**\*P: Gospel: John 11:1.45**

The holy gospel according to John.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.”

<sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

*ACS # 954*



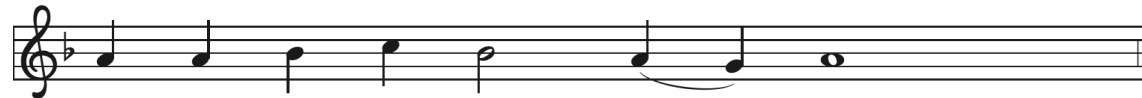
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side.  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



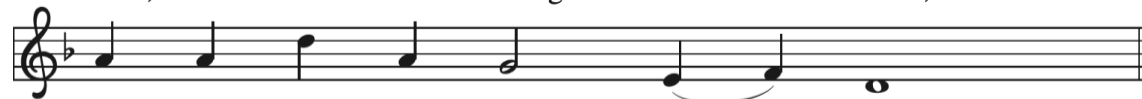
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.  
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## **\*The Apostles' CREED**

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

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

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

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

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

**P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. C: Amen.**



## \*THE PEACE

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

**C:** And also with you.

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

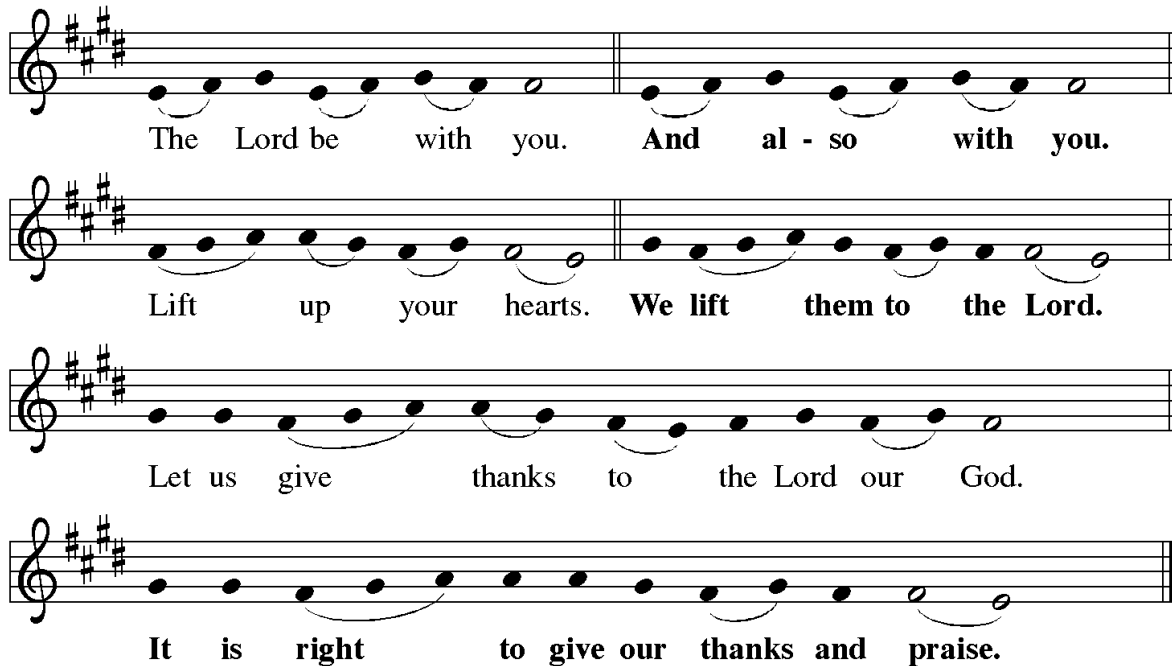
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

*A: Let us pray ... Receive our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. C: Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*S 152*



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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

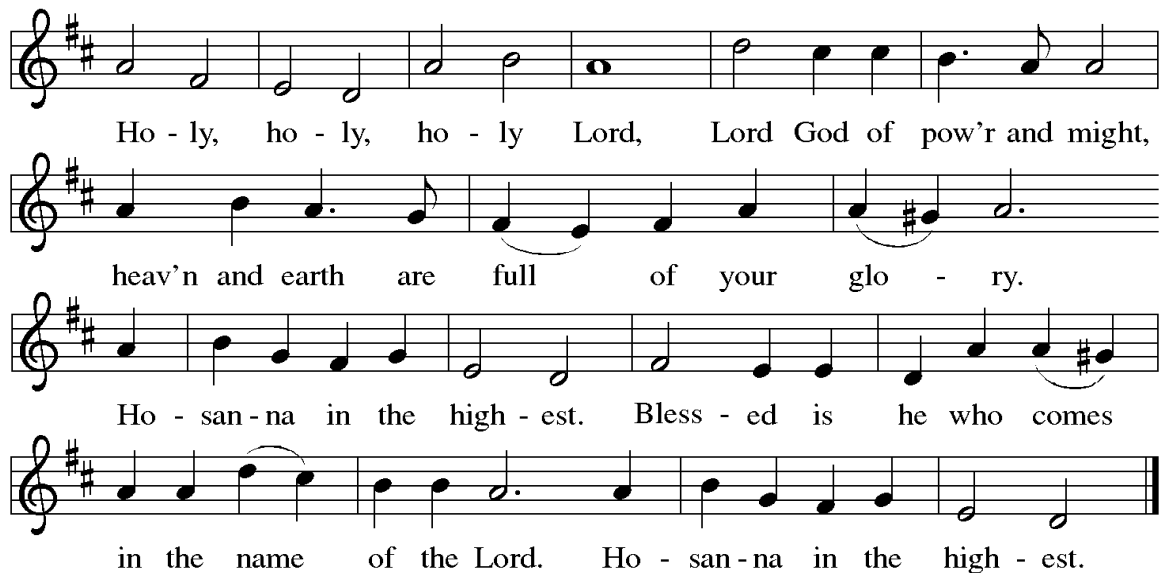
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

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

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n 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.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

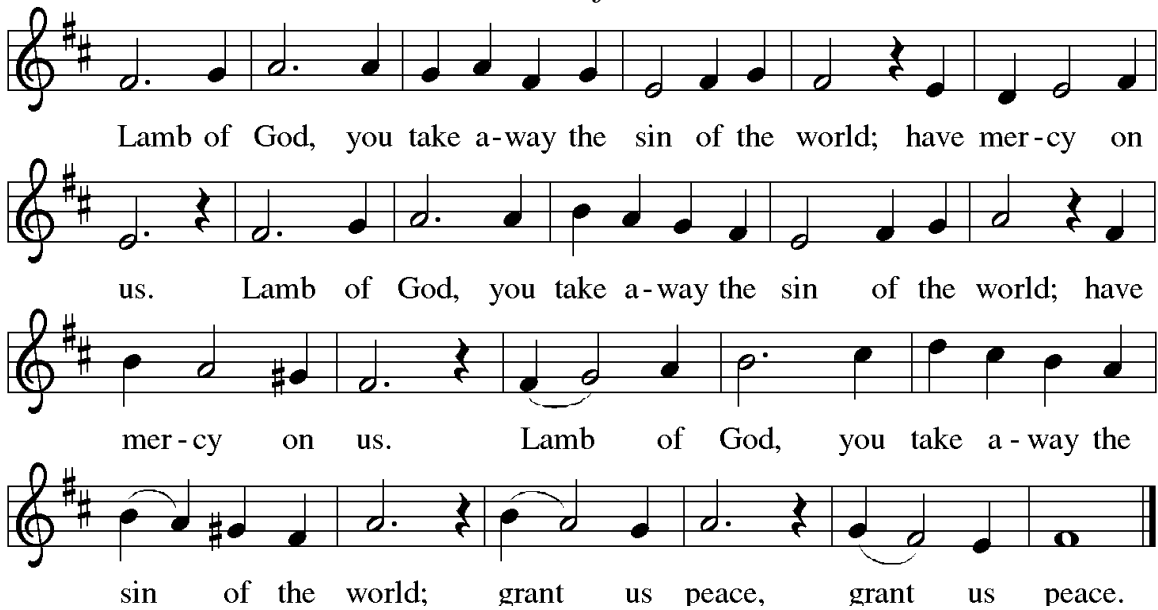
### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*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***Lamb of God*

ELW # S 154



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, grant us peace.

**INVITATION**

*P:* Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: Let us pray...* Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **C: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

*P:* God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG***Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

ELW # 333

**Dismissal**

*P:* Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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

## Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers distribute items on the first and third Thursday of every month. The food pantry will be open to distribute from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.

**The March items most needed are:** Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta or Rice Sides, Canned Fruit, and Scalloped Potatoes. These or any items can be placed in the basket at church. Thank You! *Linda Smith*



The 2023 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

Dates available: 5/21, 7/2, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, 12/17. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

**Council Secretary** is needed for Council meetings. Council meets via Zoom or in the Window Room once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider filling this position that is required in our Constitution and By Laws.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl & Dawn 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, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, 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.

**Add Bradley Buchart** to your prayers as he is now in the Marines.



## Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 793-2413.

### 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 – Andrea Paul  
Our Acolyte – Lucy Lightner  
Our Assisting Minister – Elaine Smith  
Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith  
Our Usher – Melissa Fetzer  
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster  
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

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

**Annual Directories** are now located on a table in the Narthex. Please take your directory with you. If you know a homebound member has a directory in the box, please take it to them.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** are now available. You can find them in your bulletins, at the usher's station or in the church office.

### **This Week at St. Matthew:**

**814-793-2413**

### **Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – No office hours.

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

## **This Week Events**

- Today** – Worship Sunday Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.  
**Monday** – Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday** – Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Lenten Service, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.  
**Sunday** – **Palm Sunday**  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

### **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.

Below is the schedule for menus, and the committee who will prepare and serve the meal:  
**March 29** Broccoli Cheese Soup & Ox Roast Sandwiches - Social Ministry Committee

### **Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 2, 2023**

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2nd, 2023, following the 10:30AM worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the congregation to vote on upgrading the chairlift between the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary levels of the building to a platform lift capable of accommodating a wheelchair.

The Property Committee received three bids for this project:

101 Mobility	\$33,485.00
Butler Mobility	\$34,437.00
Garaventa Lift USA	\$25,250.00

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Council voted to present the bid by Garaventa Lift USA for a congregational vote.

Full copies of the three bids are available in the church office; please call the church office at 814-793-2413 between the hours of 9AM and 12PM, Monday to Friday, to arrange a time to view the bids or to request digital copies.

## **Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)**

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2022 and as a result has \$6,056.37 for distribution in 2023. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting one of the committee members: Beth Garner, Allen Kuster, Laura Orzech, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 28, 2023. Funds will be distributed in June 2023.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

### **PURPOSE**

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as, Cash, Securities, Bequests through wills or living trusts, Life insurance policies, charitable gift annuity and Life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

### **USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



### Easter Flowers

We are offering a variety of flowers to enhance our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to place flowers in the church for Easter Sunday, please complete the form below and return it to Margie Smith by placing in her mailbox OR, place the form in an envelope and then in the offering plate. Your check should be made **payable** to

**"St. Matthew Flower Fund."**

Deadline for ordering is  
TOMORROW, March 27, 2023.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like:

<p><b>6½" Tulips \$10.00</b> Assortment _____</p>	<p><b>6" Daffodils \$10.00</b> _____</p>	<p><b>6" Hyacinth \$10.00</b> White, Pink or Purple _____</p>
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\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flower after Sunday.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**\_\_\_\_\_



**\*OPENING HYMN**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

ELW # 751



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*



Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.  
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
[www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com), 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

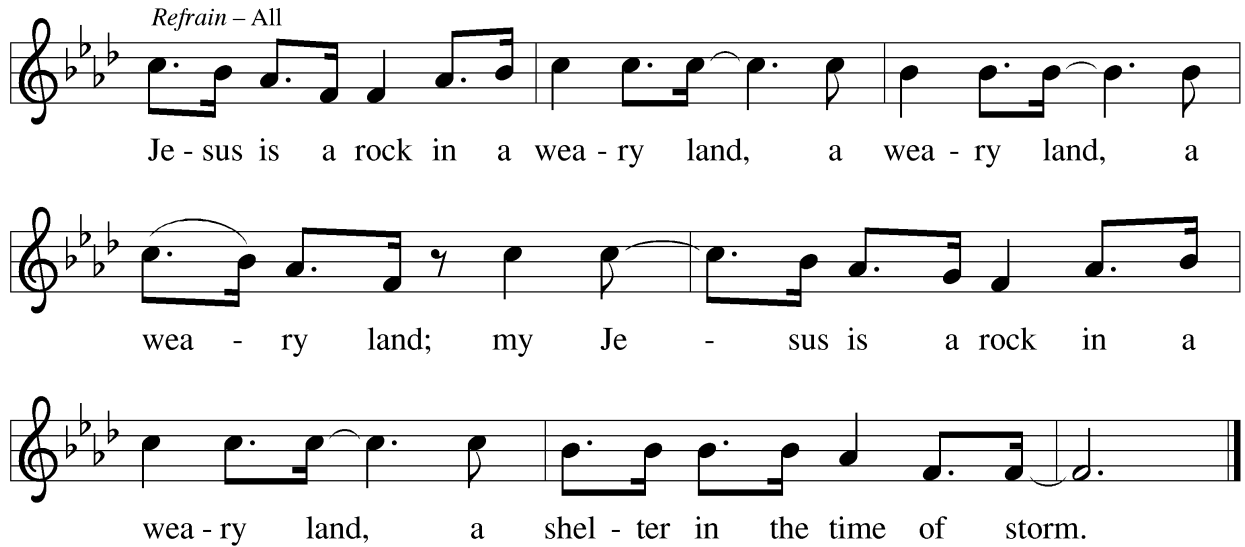
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**\*SENDING SONG**

*Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

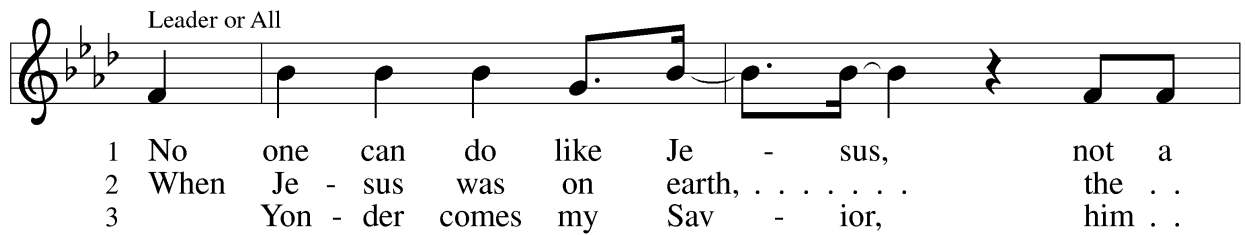
ELW # 333

*Refrain - All*



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a  
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

*Leader or All*

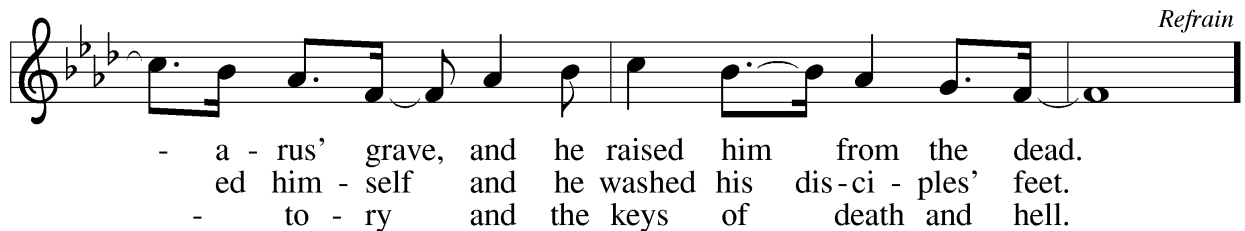


1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . . . the . .  
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

*Refrain*



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual