



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

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

February 14, 2024

E-mail: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com

Website: 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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

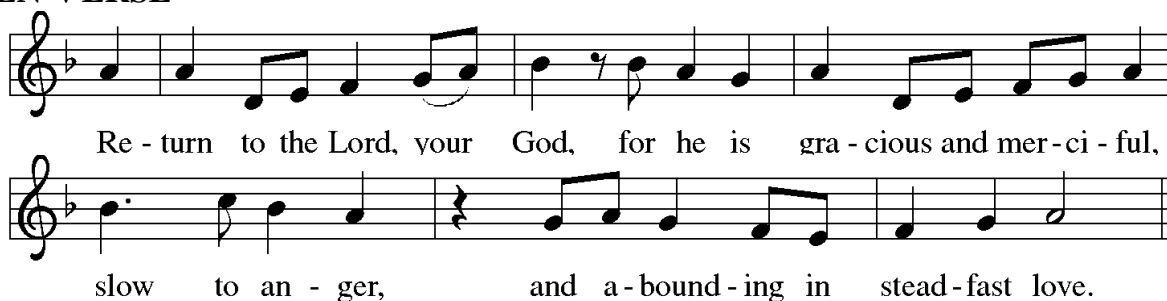
FIRST LESSON *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

¹Blow 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—²a 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. ¹²“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”¹³Rend 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.¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.¹⁶Gather 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.

¹⁷Let 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*

¹“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. ²So 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

⁵“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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.”

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For 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 *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

ELW # 319

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 strive toward the kind of life that God intends for the human community. 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

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW # 810

***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**

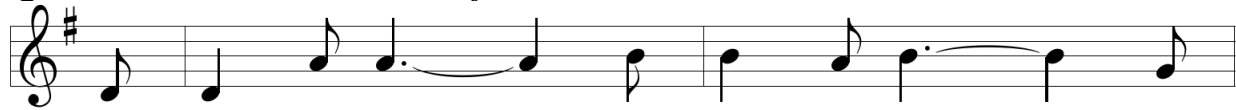
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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**

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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***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

Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 am
Sunday – **Scout Sunday**
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Assisting Minister – Martie Gilbert
Our Lector – Peggy Steinfurth
Our Altar Guild – Elaine Buchart, Tina Harclerode
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 Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, LJ Gilbert, Martie Gilbert, Brenda Harley & Family, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Alex Klotz, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Doug Smith, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

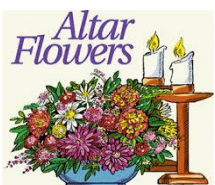
Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Church Messenger

The February 2024 *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.



Annual Giving Statements for 2023 are available in the Narthex. Those not picked up will be mailed.



The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. There are still many Sundays available. Price-\$40.00.

Lent of Love

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and worship on the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Dinner is at 6:15PM & Evening Prayer is at 7PM. Each worship service will focus on a biblical story about different aspects of love.

2024 Young at Heart Luncheon



Social Ministry & Fellowship Committees will host a Young at Heart Luncheon which is being planned for July 16, 2024 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Main course will be ham loaf. We will require an RSVP and more details will be announced.



Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services

Beginning Wednesday, February 21, a mid-week Lenten meal will be prepared and served for anyone wishing to attend. The soup and sandwich meal will be served at 6:15 pm; the Mid-week Lenten service will begin at 7 pm. The meal AND the service will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Social Ministry Committee will deliver soup and a sandwich to the shut-ins.

Following is a list of menus:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| February 21 | Vegetable soup and ox roast sandwich
Worship and Music Committee |
| February 28 | Chili and cornbread
Finance Committee |
| March 6 | Tomato soup and toasted cheese sandwich
Christian Education Committee |
| March 13 | Chicken noodle soup and chicken salad sandwich
Fellowship Committee |
| March 20 | Potato soup and ham and cheese sliders
Social Ministry Committee |

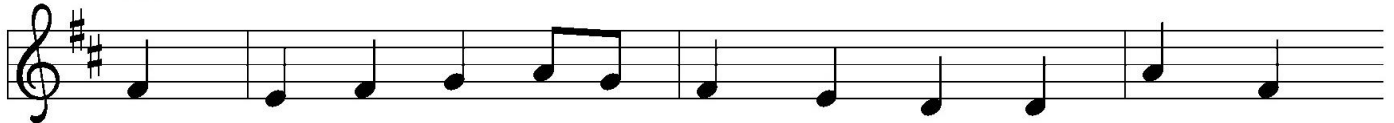
Everyone is invited to attend and join in the fellowship of sharing a meal and worship together.

Leader

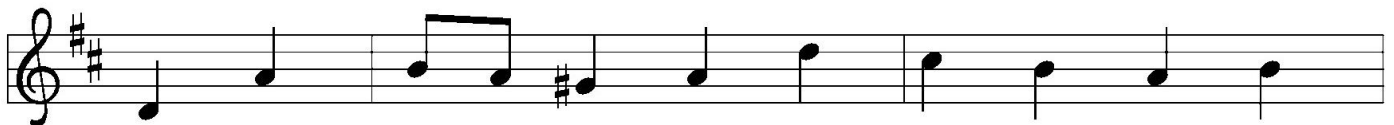


Oče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

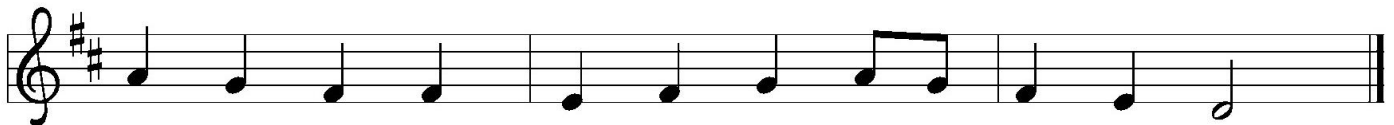
All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 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



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 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



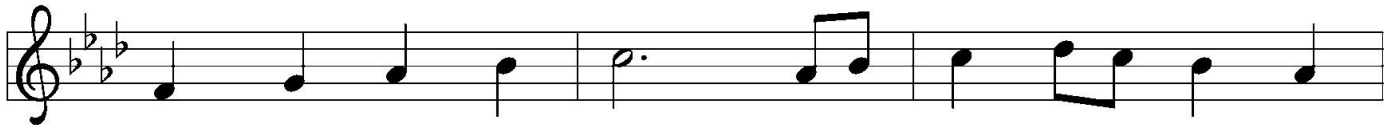
ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

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

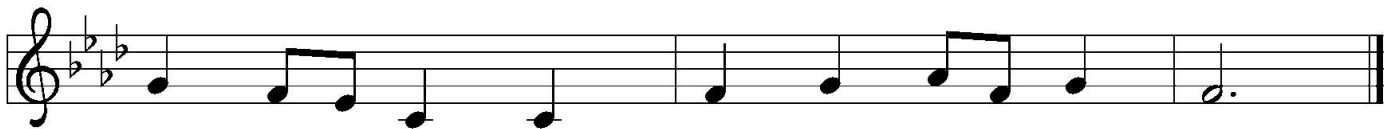
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1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

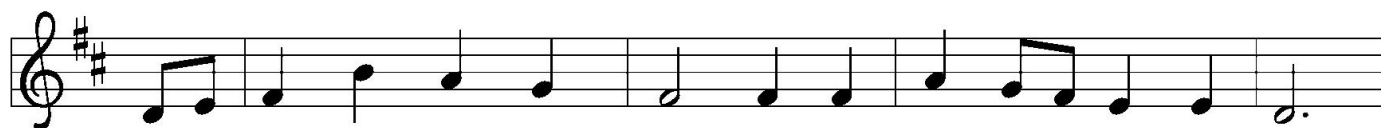
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693