Worship in the Home

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday April 5, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Schedule for Today:

10:30 AM — St. Matthew Facebook Page — Prelude & Opening Hymn #344 (see below)

~10:40 AM — St. Matthew Facebook Page — Service of the Word Live with Pastor Traci

~11:15 AM — Zoom — Postlude & Closing Hymn #347 (see below) & Virtual Coffee Hour

Welcome to Worship on this Sunday of Passion. We are doing things in a little more interactive way today. Dr. Smith will be pre-recording the prelude and opening hymn for you to sing at home. The hymn is in this bulletin and you will find the music provided for you in a video on St. Matthew's Facebook Page beginning at 10:30 AM. As soon as that video hymn is over, Pastor Traci will begin the spoken service live on St. Matthew's Facebook page—if you follow St. Matthew or are on our Facebook page listening to the prelude and opening hymn video, you will be alerted when the live broadcast begins. At the end of the live service, you are invited to meet on Zoom (directions below) to hear the postlude and then the closing hymn. This will allow you to see other members, be seen, and talk to one another. Please sing the last hymn with your microphone MUTED; the time lag in the video conference is significant enough that unison singing along with Dr. Smith will not be possible and will cause a digital cacophony. After the closing hymn, you are welcome to stay and turn on your microphone to greet one another through the video conferencing.

A note about the bulletin: to conserve paper, the citations for the readings are included but not printed out; if you want to follow along, have your Bible handy. It is our hope that this format will better allow us to share Dr. Smith's gift of music, provide a more interactive gathering experience, and still allow those who are not using Zoom to hear the Word.

How to Use Zoom

Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows you to meet with a group, seeing and hearing in real time (less a split second lag). You can use Zoom on your desktop, laptop, tablet/iPad, or smartphone. You may also use a conventional landline or cell phone to dial in and listen (and speak) without the video (this is free on Zoom's end but may be at cost to you depending on your phone plan). Here is how you Zoom:

For a desktop or laptop computer: Go to zoom.us and click on the "Sign up for free" button. Follow the prompts to sign up using your email and download the application to your computer. *Zoom is free to you*.

<u>For a tablet/iPad/smartphone</u>: In your App store, find and download the Zoom app. (When you search, there will be multiple Zoom and Zoom-like apps. You want the one that is titled "ZOOM Cloud Meetings" with a blue and white icon of a video camera.) *Zoom is a free app*.

For calling in on your phone: You will see a list of "Dial In Numbers" from which you can choose. "It does not matter which number you use (New York, Houston, whatever)." If one is busy, try another. If you have unlimited minutes on a cell plan or if you have free long distance calling on a landline, these numbers would be free; otherwise you would pay according to your phone plan. If you are able to mute your phone when you call in, please do so until you are ready to speak so that we do not hear background noise. Those who are participating by video will "see you" represented by a phone number and will probably ask during the meeting who is calling from your number...Let us know!

When you are ready to join a meeting, open your app or application on your computer and join the meeting using the Meeting ID. For St. Matthew's meetings "hosted" by Pastor Traci, the Meeting ID will always be <u>596 621 1441</u>. When you join, you will have to give the application permission to use your camera and microphone. You may also choose to join without video or to use a still picture to represent you. When you join, please mute your microphone until you are ready to speak.

You may set your Zoom screen to Gallery View (which allows you to see other participants in little windows—it looks like the intro to The Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares) or to Speaker View (which makes the person actively speaking very large on your screen with just a few other participants in small squares on the side). If a large number of people sign on to the meeting, you will have multiple "pages" of participants that you can scroll through to see a limited number of people at once. This size of your monitor and device will limit the number of people you can see at any one time.

This may sound overwhelming, but several committees and Council have already met using Zoom. For help getting set up, you can contact:

Pastor Traci or Dr. Smith for Mac, iPad, or iPhone Jane Fagans for Android platform devices Elaine Smith for PC Betsy Snyder for PC or iPhone

Here is your invitation and call in numbers:

Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5966211441

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Dial by your location

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)
- +1 253 215 8782 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441



Invocation

We gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

- ¹¹ I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- ¹² I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
 - they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your lovingkindness save me."

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty first chapter [1-11] Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And they will be sent immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

About this reading:

When in the past we have read this text in church and carried the palm branches, we were celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ coming among us as we began all the services of this Holy Week. But you may trust that Christ comes also now to your home, to be with you as you begin this week of prayer, apart from others but still together with the whole church. Blessed indeed is the One who comes!

Reflection (this is for the people that receive the bulletin by mail)

As the Psalm today says, fear is certainly all around. This story of the suffering of Christ powerfully fits our time, and we can recognize ourselves in the fearful crowd, if not also in the betrayers and killers. But why does God in Christ enter into such agonies? To plant hope and life and God's very self deep in all human suffering, so that from now on there is no place of hurt and sorrow where Jesus Christ is not there first. To defeat all dread and death and sin, so that we might no longer live in fear. To plant the mind of Christ in us, so that we might turn to our neighbor in love.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with words from one of today's psalms, "O Lord, save us."

O triune God, God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers: for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by your presence in the word; for pastors and bishops, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry; for all those who are assisting the digital sharing of worship materials; for guidance in keeping this Holy Week in devout prayer and praise; O holy God, we pray to you: **O Lord**, save us.

For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard; for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected; for scientists, that their knowledge of your earth will direct our society's choices;

O creating God, we pray to you: O Lord, save us.

For peace through the world, especially in Syria and Afghanistan; for an end to terrorism and religious violence; for all elected leaders, that they see our crisis rightly and make judgments wisely; for wisdom in distributing governmental economic aid; O mighty God, we pray to you: **O Lord, save us.**

For our distraught world facing the coronavirus; for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain, and the United States; for those who grieve their dead; for the sick and their families; for those fearful of an unknown future; for the millions of unemployed; for children at home, that they be safe from abuse; for those who have been led to rely on empty remedies; for hospitals, in their desperate need for supplies; O compassionate God, we pray to you: **O Lord, save us.**

For all who are facing the criminal justice system; for those falsely accused of crime; for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe; for those who face isolation or execution; O righteous God, we pray to you: **O Lord, save us.**

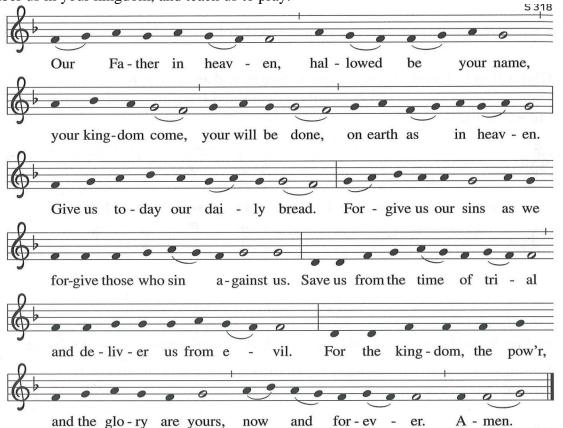
For those whose needs we know, for those whose needs are hidden; for those with prior illnesses whose treatments are now postponed; for all who today will die; for those who are homeless; for all who are sick; especially for those we name here...and finally, for ourselves: O benevolent God, we pray to you: **O Lord, save us.**

With thanks for the technology by which we stay connected; with thanks for enough food; with thanks for the support of our community of faith; with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you, especially those whose work has enriched our faith, we praise your salvation now and unto our end. O eternal God, we pray to you: **O Lord, save us.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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

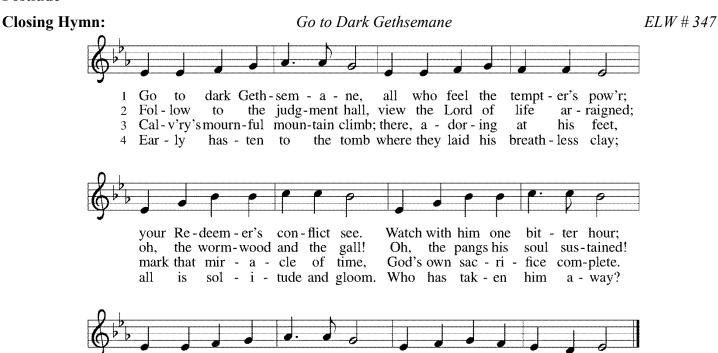


Benediction

May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us, and the Advocate keep us, Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID 596-621-1441

Postlude



Holy Week Schedule: All on St. Matthew's Facebook Page unless otherwise noted

fin-ished!" hear him cry;

Monday—Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM, Live

Monday—Friday: Kids' Devotions (Live) & Otto Sings (Recorded), Midday

Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss;

Monday—Tuesday: Night Prayer, 9PM, Live Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM, Live

Wednesday-Friday Hymn Devotion, Facebook 9PM, recorded

turn not from his

'It is fin-ished! Christ is ris'n! He

Thursday, Friday, Saturday: Triduum Services, 7PM, Live after Recorded Prelude & Hymn Sunday: Easter Worship, 10:30 AM, Music Recorded, Service of the Word, Live followed by

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meets our eyes.

learn from Je - sus

learn from him to

learn from Je - sus

Say - ior, teach us

Christ to

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Christ to

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pray.

cross.

die.

rise.

Fellowship, 11:30ish AM, Live Interactive on ZOOM (ID 596-621-1441)

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists) Psalm 36:5-11. Tuesday 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Wednesday Isaiah 50:4-9a. Maundy Thursday (commemoration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945) John 13:1-17, 31b-35. Good Friday (commemoration of Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557) John 18:1—19:42. Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter Romans 6:3-11.

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10 *or* John 20:1-18.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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WE ARE CHANGING TO DIGITAL CORRESPONDENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

IF WE DON'T HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU PLEASE EMAIL US SO WE CAN

COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

Allegheny Synod Assembly is CANCELED until Fall of 2020.

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at "www.stmatthewlc.com"
- 2) Click on the "Give" button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recu

BarCode Offerings:

- 1) Visit "Play Store on your mobile device"
- 2) Find OR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on the "Install" the app
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Scan the BarCode: (follow the prompts)
 - a) in the bulletin OR b) in the Messenger OR c) on the church website above



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020**. Fund will be distributed in June 2020.

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 by 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.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenberg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Betty Jane Moore, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: John Aljets, Jerry Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Donna Corle, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Shari Gilbert, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jillian, Melissa Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Sandy Loomis, Kristen Malloy, Savannah McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Michele Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Matt Straesser, Cindy Thomas, Dave Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.

Those Serving Overseas: Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

HOLY WEEK TENEBRAE HOME BASED DEVOTION BOOKLET WILL BE IN AN EMAIL.