



First Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 6, 2022

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God’s grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God’s love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

COVID-19

Following guidelines from our Synod and Public Health, we are making every effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone must show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and wear a face covering. Please stay home if you are ill. Let’s all stay safe!

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran



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FIRST READING. Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

SECOND READING. Romans 10:8b-13

‘The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart’
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

GOSPEL. Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written,
“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”’

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you”,
and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

As we slowly transition back to in-person worship, we are trying ZOOM for midweek Lenten worship. Please join us on Wednesdays throughout Lent at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM (March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6). For a ZOOM invitation email Pastor Bart: bartsterc@gmail.com. Maundy Thursday worship will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 at St. Matthew's, and the Good Friday service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 15 at First Lutheran in Port Colborne.

As COVID restrictions ease, we are happy to include more participants in Sunday morning worship. Please let us know if you are willing to read scripture or the prayers of intercession. We love having a variety of voices participate in our worship each week!

Our annual meeting is planned for Sunday, March 27 after the service in the Fellowship Hall (pizza lunch will be provided). If you have a report that needs to be included in the Annual Report, please submit it to Jennifer by Monday, March 7.

Open Arms Mission features a specific request for each month, and this month's focus is juice. OAM is low on juice, and it is often requested by many families. All types of food donations are well received!

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time begins March 13, 2022. Turn clocks ahead one hour.



Confession and Forgiveness leader/response

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
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.

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. Amen.

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Psalm 91 - Tune 347, *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Gethsemane)

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Leader: Those who go to the Lord for safety, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

Those who look to God in love | **Know deliv'rance from above.**

He will cover you with his pinions, and you will find refuge under his wings; his faithfulness will protect and defend you.

Where the Lord of hosts draws near, | **There is nothing one need fear.**

Not the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day--not the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor the sickness that lays waste at midday.

Mighty Fortress, shelter me! | **E'er my strong Protector be!**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no plague come near your dwelling.

God will send his angel bands | **To uphold you on their hands.**

You will tread on the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Guarding ev'ry step you take | **For his tender mercy's sake.**

"I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation."

Mighty Fortress, shelter me! | **E'er my strong Protector be!**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 1 - Page 94

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness ...printed in bulletin

Gathering Song .326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Greetingpage 98

Kyriepage 98

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingDeuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91.....printed in bulletin

Second ReadingRomans 10:8b-13

Gospel Acclamation for Lent ... Page 103

"Glory to you, O Lord."

GospelLuke 4:1-13

"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Apostles' Creedpage 105

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer Response "receive our prayer."

Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgivingpage 107

Holy, Holy, Holypage 108

Eucharistic Prayer IVpage 111

The Lord's Prayerpage 112

Communion

Communion Hymn325

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song504 A Mighty Fortress...

Dismissal: Go in peace.

Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.