

March 20, 2022

(C)

Third Sunday in Lent

FIRST READING. Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, 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.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline 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.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, 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.

SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do 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.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These 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. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No 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.

GOSPEL. Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then 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. So 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?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'



Third Sunday In Lent

Sunday, March 20, 2022

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!
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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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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 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). 2021 Annual Reports are now available.

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!

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 63:1-8 - Tune 893, *Before You, Lord, We Bow* (Darwall's 148th)

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: O God, you are my God. 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.

**To you, Lord, my soul clings,
Held fast by your right hand.**

Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are. Your constant love is better than life itself.

**To you, Lord, my heart sings
For mercy strong and grand.**

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

My voice I raise.

For you have been my help; and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**Both day and night to sing your might,
Your love to praise.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 1 - Page 94

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness ...printed in bulletin

Gathering Song618 Guide Me Ever,
Great Redeemer

Greetingpage 98

Kyriepage 98

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingIsaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8.....printed in bulletin

Second ReadingI Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel Acclamation for Lent ...page 103

"Glory to you, O Lord."

GospelLuke 13:1-9

"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ...329 As the Sun with
Longer Journey

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 Hymn542

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song ..328 Restore in Us, O God

Dismissal: Go in peace.

Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.