

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

## First Sunday in Lent

**Introduction to the Day:** On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

## Gathering

Prelude

*Poor Wayfaring Stranger* arr. Marilyn Thompson

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

*Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship

Lord God, you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you.

**As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**try me and know my thoughts.**

See if there is any wicked way in me,

**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

1. O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have  
 2. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chris - te e -

mer - cy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy, Lord.  
 - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, e - lei - son. *Fine.*

Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin; from  
 earth - born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.

Text: Trad. Kyrie & Synesius of Cyrene. Music: Paraguay Tune. Setting by Hal Hopson & John Paradowski. Copyright: © 2000 Hope Publishing. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Gracious God,

**In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray. We ask for your direction, your patience, your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, who, despite his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word.**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song

**#618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

Greeting

We gather as we live in the name of the God, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Praise Kids! Anthem (8:30)      *Let Your Light Shine* by Charlton D. Bozard

*Let your light shine for Jesus. Let your light shine every day. Let your light shine for Jesus as you work and play.*

*I will shine my light for Jesus. I will shine it every day. I will shine my light for Jesus shine it every day.*

*Living in the Light* by Ruth Elaine Schram

*Living in the light of Jesus; I will live in the light. Living in the light of Jesus; I will live in the light.*

*He will lead me step by step and I will do what's right. I will follow Him each day from morning 'til night.*

## Word

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:1-10

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 25.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

**p 189, Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us**

## Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

Pastor Marilyn Miller

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn of the Day

**#326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey**

*(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

## Profession of Faith

## The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

*Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.*

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

## Call to Prayer

## God of Love, Hear Our Prayer

God of love, hear our prayer, we are trust-ing in your  
mer-cy, God of love, hear our prayer, grant us your peace.

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...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

Meal

- Musical Offering 8:30 *To Thee, O Lord* by Sergei Rachmaninoff  
– Senior Choir  
*To thee O Lord do I lift up my soul, my God I trust in thee. Psalm 25:1*
- 11:00 *Ah, Holy Jesus* by Arnold Sherman  
– Bells Angels

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Offertory Response

**When Grains of Wheat Fall**

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground, New life with -  
2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live; To Christ our  
in their death is found. When grapes are crushed, there  
ran - somed lives we give. With grate - ful hearts, our  
flows new wine. So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.  
gifts in hand, Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr LM. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these tokens of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Words of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Communion

We celebrate with (8:30) Zoe McCullough, (11:00) Archer Ordonez and Naomi Gordon their First Communion today.

Today this community of faith rejoices because Sunday is the day Christ arose from the dead. Once again Jesus calls us to join him for a meal. We celebrate with those who today join in sharing of the Lord's Meal—Holy Communion.

**We welcome you to the Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for your life. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal. Come among us, O God, as we gather to worship you.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**We prepare our hearts to receive this meal.**

*Please be seated.*

Call to Communion                      **#336 Lamb of God/Your Only Son**

Communion Hymn                        **#808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism that we may provide for all in need. We follow you this Lent, O Christ to death and new life.

**Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song

**#319 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days**

### Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

*Sortie* by Louis Niedermeyer [1802-1861]

## Scripture for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent – February 18, 2024

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading -- Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading -- 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### Gospel Reading -- Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”