

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

February 26th, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00 am Services

First Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the Day: Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Gathering

Prelude

Poor Wayfaring Stranger arr. Marilyn Thompson

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

Please stand as you are able.

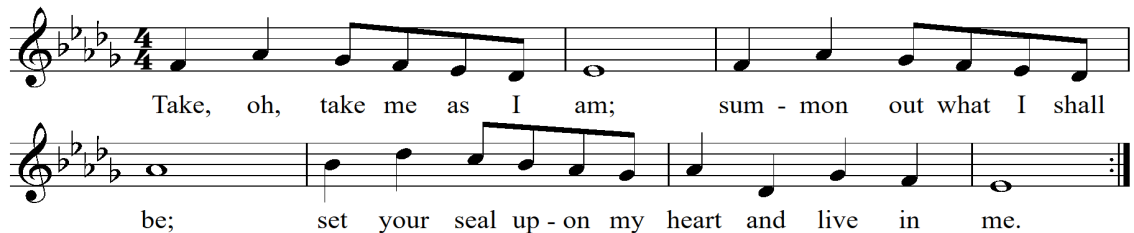
Preparation for Worship

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection.

We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text & Music: John Bell, b. 1949. Tune: Take Me As I Am, 77 74. Copyright © 1995 Iona Community, admin GIA Publ. Inc. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Confession and Forgiveness with the Kyrie

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

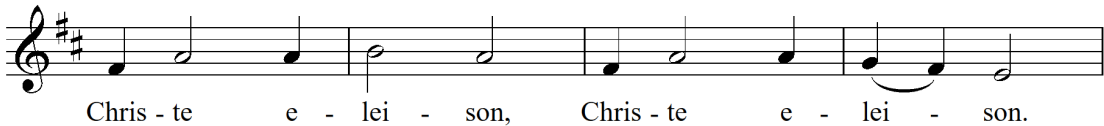


For self-centered living, and for wandering from your resurrection life:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



For jealousies that divide families and nations and that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



Turn us back to you, O God.

Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

Amen.



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Litany for the 1st Sunday in Lent

The Lord God opened wide the heavens at Jesus' baptism to declare, "This is my Son whom I love, with Him I am well pleased."

With these words God assured Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

As God's own Son, Jesus would go forth to resist the power of the devil.

Help us to resist, when we are tempted to sin, knowing our strength is in You.

Remind us that through the water of our baptism we became your beloved children.

As your beloved, we are dead in sin, but you make us alive in Christ Jesus.

Send us forth this day with confidence in your love for us.

We go forward to declare your love and forgiveness with the world.

Gathering Song

#618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Greeting

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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.

Anthem

8:30

Yes, I Am! by Ken Medema – Praise Kids!

Children's Sermon

8:30

Word

Psalm

Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 32.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to God with All Your Heart



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Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:16-17, 4:1-2

Jesus' baptized and led into the wilderness.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd and 4th chapters.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

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.

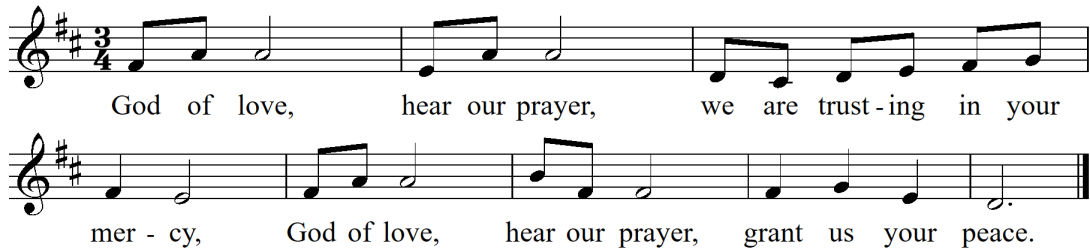
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Call to Prayer

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer



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...Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering

8:30

People Get Ready by Curtis Mayfield

Dennis McBride, Soloist

"People Get Ready" is a 1965 song by Curtis Mayfield, inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement. It is part of a long tradition of African American freedom songs that use train imagery. The imagery comes not from a real train, but from the Underground Railroad, the escape route north for slaves before the Civil War. "People Get Ready" has been widely covered by gospel, pop, reggae, and country singers from the U.S., United Kingdom, Australia, and

the Caribbean. In 2015, the Library of Congress selected it for preservation for its cultural, historic, and artistic significance.

People get ready, there's a train a-coming, You don't need your baggage, you just get on board. All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming. You don't need a ticket, you just thank the Lord.

People get ready for the train to Jordan, Picking up passengers coast to coast. Faith is the key, open the doors and board them. There's hope for all, among those loved the most.

11:00

As Your Spirit in the Desert by Michael Costello
– Senior Choir, Chris Zello, Clarinet

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

When Grains of Wheat Fall

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

Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Tune:
Tune: Old Hundredth. Meter: 88 88, LM.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, you provide us with every gift of creation, 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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

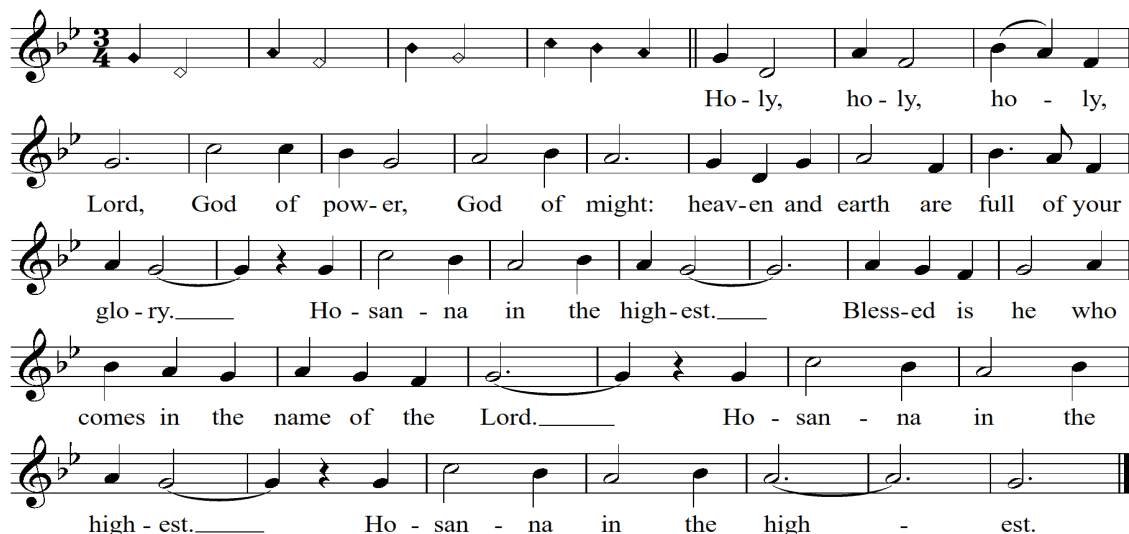
It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels forever praising your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav-en and earth are full of your
 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Eucharistic Prayer

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 Norah Plamann, Jade Richter (8:30 service) and Ben Cherwin (11:00 Service) 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 lives. 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

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

We join in the feast.

Please be seated.

Call to Communion

#481 Come to the Table

Communion Anthem 11:00

People Get Ready by Curtis Mayfield

Dennis McBride, Soloist

See description on Page 6 at the 8:30 Service, Musical Offering

Communion Hymn

#808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, as the manna miraculously nourished your wandering children, so, too, this gift of life refreshes us. We do not live by bread alone so teach us to prefer this nourishment. Teach us to hunger for this food. Teach us to follow where the Spirit leads. You are the Lord forevermore.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing for the Lenten Season

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]

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Psalm 32**SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the

judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.

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