

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00 am Services

## *Second Sunday in Lent*

**Introduction to the Day:** During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

### Gathering

Prelude

*What Wondrous Love Is This with Take My Life and Let It Be* arr. Alex-Zsolt

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

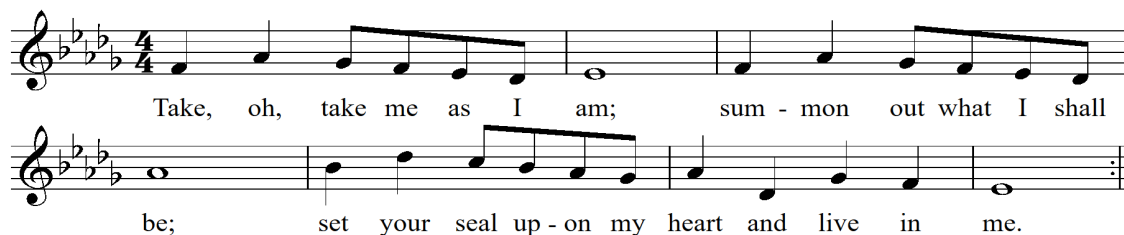
Preparation for Worship

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**



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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

For the promise of New Birth at our baptism

**We thank you God.**

With the water of our baptism

**We have been given a new heart and a new Spirit.**

Everyone who is born of water and of the Spirit

**Seeks the light that comes from Christ Jesus.**

Holy Spirit fill our lives with your presence and power today

**So that your love may flow from our hearts like streams of water in a dry and thirsty world.**

### Gathering Song

### #796 How Firm a Foundation

#### 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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.*

## Word

Psalm

Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 121.

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gospel Acclamation

**Return to God with All Your Heart**



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Gospel Reading

John 3:1-10

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

The holy gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

**This is the Spirit's Entry Now**

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

1. This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the  
 2. This mir - a - cle of the life re - born comes  
 3. Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that

wa - ter and the word, the cross of Je - sus  
 from the Lord of breath; the sin - less one from  
 we must die each day to rise a - gain by

on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
 his de - sign as fol - lwers of his way.

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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.**

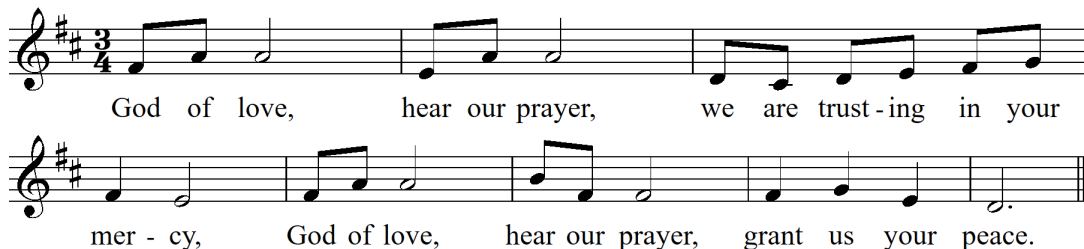
*Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.*

### 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

*Eternal Life* by Craig Courtney – Senior Choir

11:00

*There is a Fountain* arr. Cindy Berry

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Offertory

### 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

Almighty God, you have called us into your kingdom. You have made us citizens in your holy nation. And even more you have adopted us as your children. Receive our offerings signs and symbols of our love. 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.**



(11:00 Service)

## First Communion

We celebrate with Quinn Steinberg and Evelyn and Simone Georgeson 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

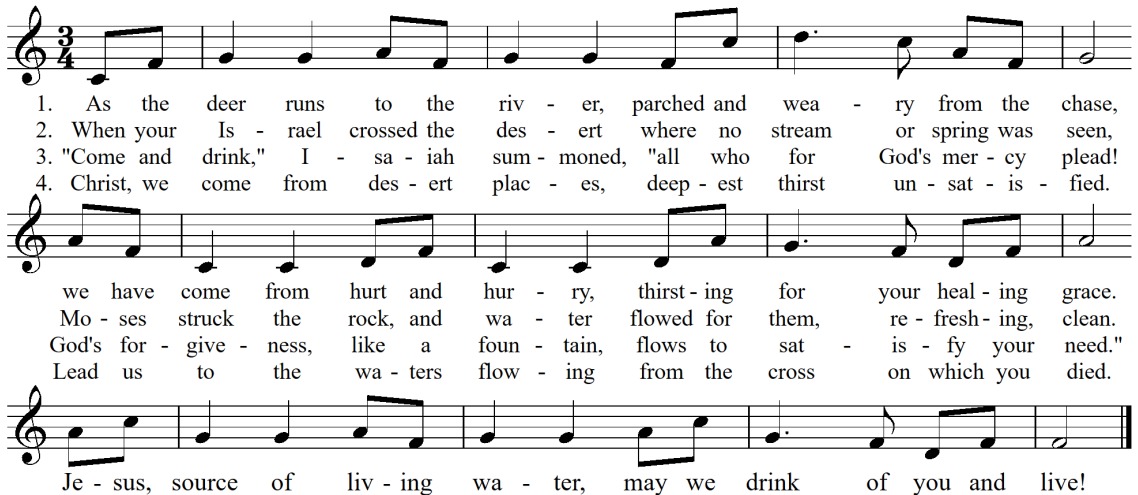
**#481 Come to the Table**

Communion Anthem 8:30

***United at the Table* [ELW #498] – Senior Choir**

Communion Hymn

**As the Deer Runs to the River**



1. As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,  
 2. When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,  
 3. "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum - moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!  
 4. Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.

we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.  
 Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.  
 God's for - give - ness, like a foun - tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."  
 Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.

Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

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*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

Even as Abram was called to faith, O Christ, so, in this meal, our faith is nourished and strengthened. Now, as Abram put faith into action, following the Father's bidding, teach us to follow where you lead. 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

**#324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

Dismissal

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Toccata on Rathbun* by David Cherwien

**FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

**Psalms 121**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
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