

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 5, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY AND CONFESSION OF SINS:

L: With the First Sunday in Lent, we mark the beginning of our journey with Christ to the cross. Remembering how God delivered His people of old from their slavery to freedom, we are called to stand in the strength of Jesus and the Word of God before the tempter's power. From Deuteronomy, we hear how Israel recalled their journey in the wilderness and their deliverance at the hand of the Lord. In Romans, Paul describes how near the Word of the Lord is to us and how all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus was led by the Spirit from the Jordan into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil and answered him with the Word of the Lord. We live in a world of choices. Sometimes our choices are between one good thing and another. And sometimes our choices are between right and wrong. Both wisdom and strength are needed. And sometimes we make the wrong choice. For that, we need forgiveness. Let's confess that now.

C: **Lord, we know temptation. We confess that we have often failed when temptation comes. We have made the wrong choice. We have taken the wrong road. Forgive us and renew us. Move us from self-centeredness and foolishness to Christ-like strength and wisdom. Heal our wounded spirits and lives, so that we may fully serve you. Prepare us for this journey of discipleship and healing. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.**

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" – Blue Hymnal #366

**I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bear them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in his blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**

**I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in him;
He heals all my disease; My soul he does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.**

**I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on his breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Lord Jesus, the temptations of the world loom large before us. We are enticed, cajoled, and “sweet-talked” into moving from lives of service to lives of self-centeredness. We need your healing love. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help us to place our trust in you, that we may be strong in our faith and confident in our service to you through serving others. In your name, Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders; He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 91:1-13

“On Eagles’ Wings”

VERSE 1

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -

1. bide in His shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My

1. ref - uge, my Rock in whom I trust!" (Refrain)

REFRAIN

And He will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the

breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of His hand.

After Last Refrain
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand.

VERSE 2

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and
2. fam-ine will bring you no fear: un-der His wings your
2. ref - uge, His faith-ful-ness your shield. (Refrain)

VERSE 3

3. You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the
3. ar - row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -
3. bout you, near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

VERSE 4

4. For to His an-gels He's giv - en a com-mand to
4. guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will
4. bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-against a stone. (Refrain)

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 10:8-13

“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and

are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter four.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.

You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung’ring hearts.

Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.

Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,

Lord, help us seek your kingdom first; Our wills with yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.

Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe

(“O Christ, You Walked the Road”, text by Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., copyright 1997 GIA Publications, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)

MESSAGE: “A Road Map for Lent” – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress” – Blue Hymnal #298

**A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'er taken
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabbath Lord, And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

(“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518.)

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Lay Minister: Jim Geslin