

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 12, 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: On this Second Sunday in Lent, we are reminded that the Lord is rich in mercy and willing to forgive our sins and save us by His grace, but we are not always ready to approach Him in the humility of faith and with a heart of repentance. From the prophet Jeremiah comes the story of how the Word of the Lord was met with rejection, anger, and rebellion. In Philippians, Paul reminds us that even as we live here on this sinful earth, we are also citizens of heaven. In the Gospel, we hear the lament of the Lord who wanted to gather His people under the arms of His mercy, but they would not. Let us call upon our God, rich in mercy, and confess to him our sins

C: **There is an uncertainty in our spirits today, O Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears.**

L: It is easy to be like Jerusalem in our Gospel reading, turning our backs on those whom you send. The world shouts its solutions to us and then deserts us when we are in need.

C: **Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. In short, Lord, we have not lived as citizens of heaven. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path of heavenly citizenship, for we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” – Blue Hymnal #231

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;

From selfish passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;

Let me your loving servant be And taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;

Through darkness and perplexity Point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when the flood is past,

I may th’eternal brightness see And share your joy at last.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Lord, we come to you this evening with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that we may live as citizens of heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 26:8-15

But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!" Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 3:17-4:1

L: Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

C: **For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.**

L: Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

ALL: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

L: Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 13.

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

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "I'm But a Stranger Here" – Blue Hymnal #515

**I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home;
Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand.
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.**

**What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be over-past;
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.**

**Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home;
What-e'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand.
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.**

MESSAGE: "Living as Citizens of Heaven" – 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 SONG: "Servant's Prayer"

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins in 4/4 time and features several time signature changes: 3/4 at measure 3, 2/4 at measure 10, and 4/4 at measure 13. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 27 marking the start of new lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words split across lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots in 4/4 time.

Lord, it's You who has brought me to this day, who has
May my feet nev - er stum - ble and nev - er stray, nor grow
May my eyes ev - er fixed on Your king - dom be, as my

car - ried and kept me in Your care. I look back and I see You in
we - ary up - on this ro - cky road. For the path I am on is a
heart ev - er longs for joy to come. For my hope is in things that I

all my years, and so for - ward I go know - ing You are
nar - row way, but I know You are with me so on I
can - not see, but be - cause of Your pro - mise I press

there. May each word from my lips be a song of good news, ev - ery
go.

touch of my hands be a gift of grace, ev - ery beat of my heart be a prayer to You, and the

sum of my days be a life of praise.

on. Christ be - fore me to guide me

on my way. Christ be - side me so I am not a - lone. Christ - with - in me to give me

words to say. Christ - be - hind me to bring the har - vest home. May each

30
word from my lips be a song of good news, ev - ery touch of my hand be a

33
gift of grace, ev - ery beat of my heart be a prayer to You, and the sum of my days be a

37
life of praise. And the sum of my days be a life of praise.

41
And the sum of my days be a life of praise.

+ + +

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold