

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 26, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

***Welcome to worship at St. Matthew!** To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

***We ask that all guests** sign a yellow attendance card located in the pew rack, and then please hand the card to the pastor as you leave the worship service.*

***Assisted hearing devices and large print hymnals and orders of service** are available from the ushers.*

***If you have a prayer request**, please write it out on one of the green prayer cards located in the pew rack, and then submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

***Parents with small children** are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

***Thank you** for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

+ 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 OUR SINS:

L: The readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent fill us with a cause for joy. From the prophet Isaiah comes the song of joy in the God who has become our Savior. In the Epistle, we are reminded that in Christ we are a whole new creation. In the familiar parable of the prodigal son, or, better named, the parable of the waiting father, we see the mercy of God that welcomes His wandering children back, forgives them of their sins, and restores them to be His own children again. Let's come humbly into God's holy presence now confessing our need for His forgiveness:

C: **Lord, it is interesting that it is easy for us to identify with today's scripture about the "Prodigal Son". Some of us are easily reminded of our own selfishness and stubbornness when we willfully sought our own way. Others are reminded about how angry we were when others were not held accountable for their actions, when we have been so careful not to displease anyone. Still others can identify with the father who, feeling the loss of his son, welcomes him home again, reminding the brother that he has always been in the love and care of the Father.**

- L: We hear this story and it's a pleasant memory. But do we really understand what it is about? Do we know that we have also been stubborn and selfish, angry and unforgiving, sorrowful and caught between two conflicting factions? We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in God's infinite love, we also are forgiven and healed. We are called to turn our lives back to God's care, which is always extended to us.
- C: **Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray, Amen.**

SONG OF CONFESSION: "Jesus Sinners Will Receive"
Jesus sinners will receive; May they all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners will receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here our ills have perfect healing;
We with humble hearts believe Jesus sinners will receive.

When their sheep have lost their way, Faithful shepherds go to seek them;
Jesus watches all who stray, Faithfully to find and take them
In his arms that they may live – Jesus sinners will receive.

Come, O sinners, one and all, Come, accept his invitation;
Come, obey his gracious call, Come and take his free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners will receive.

("Jesus Sinners Will Receive", copyright 1953 Wurttembergisches Choralbuch, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

- L: Let us pray.
C: **How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: "First Song of Isaiah"

Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be a - fraid. For the

5 Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and He will be my Sav - ior.

9 Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be a -

13 fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and He will be my

17 Sav - ior. There - fore you shall draw wa - ters with re - joic - ing

21 from the springs of sal - va - tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and

25 call up - on his Name; Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

30 trust in him and not be af raid. - For the Lord is my strong-hold and my- sure - de-fense, and

34 he will be my Sav - ior. Make his deeds

38

 known a-mong the peo - ples; See that they re-mem-ber that his Name is ex-al - ted

41

 Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for he has done great things and this is

44

 known in all the world. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

47

 trust in him and not be af raid. - For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure - de-fense, and

51

 he will be my Sav - ior. Cry a - loud, in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on,

56

 Ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Ho - ly One of

61

 Is - rael. Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will

65

 trust in him and not be af - raid, For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and

69

 he will be my Sav - ior.

("The First Song of Isaiah" by Jack Noble White, copyright 1976 Belwin Mills Pub. Co., used with permission.)

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 15.

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

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable... "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered"

**As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
Far from Your love – unfed, unclean, unclothed
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?**

**Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.**

**A feast of love for us You are preparing;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!
"Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing –
Here taste again the treasure of My grace."**

("As Rebels, Lord" text by Stephen P. Starke, copyright 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House, used by permission, LSB Hymn License #100014518.)

MESSAGE – Dr. Fung Lo

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.

10:00 a.m. only -

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ 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: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy help I've
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy love - ly



grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee:
face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace!



While the hope of end - less glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Come, my Lord, no long - er tar - ry, Take my ran - som'd soul a - way;



Teach me ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
Send Thine an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

+ + +

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

5:30 p.m. -

Lay Minister: Bob Nehring

Song Leader: Mary Nehring

10:00 a.m. -

Lay Minister: Lisa Neaderhiser

Song Leader: Ben Hugo

Ushers: Alman Team

Power Point: Caitlin Kyseth

Acolyte: Parker Kyseth

Lector: Bob Lundholm