

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, February 20, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING MEDLEY:

“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

Pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. *(Repeat song)*

(By John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, copyright 1982 Full Armor Music Co. & Hal Leonard, One License.Net #A-704112)

“Lamb of God”



1. Your on - ly Son no sin to hide, But You have
(2.) love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3. I was so lost I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died, The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod And to be - come the Lamb of God. 2. Your gift of
fraud And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
rod, And to be called a lamb of



God. O - Lamb - of - God, sweet - Lamb of God, I love the
God.



ho - ly Lamb of God. O wash me in His pre - cious



blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

(“Lamb of God” by Twila Paris, copyright 1985 StraightWay Music/ASCAP, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

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.**

OPENING SENTENCES & CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Holy Jesus, you enter the wilderness of our hungers, our lust for power, our eagerness to test God:

C: **Be with us on our journey to Jerusalem, we pray.**

L: Jesus of our hopes, you set aside your glory, choosing to cradle us in your scarred hands:

C: **Hold us in your tender embrace, we pray.**

L: Jesus of the Feast, you are broken so we might be healed, you pour out yourself so we might be drenched in your grace:

C: **Feed us from the gifts of your body and blood, we pray.**

L: Lamb of God:

C: **Have mercy.**

L: Servant to the poor:

C: **Have mercy on us.**

L: Free gift of our righteousness:

C: **Have mercy on us, even as we confess,**

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L: We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship. We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do.

C: **Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives in your service. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to answer courageously the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

RESPONSE: "Lamb of God" – refrain (see p. 1)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **The season of Lent is here again, Lord and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram^[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: James 1:12-18

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter one.

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

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

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: "We are Entering the Wilderness...Again" – 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 Is Our God"

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 Sabaoth 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.**

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Lay Minister: Larry Betzold