

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, February 27, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING HYMN: “My Faith Looks Trustingly”

My faith looks trustingly To Christ of Calvary,

My Savior true! Lord, hear me while I pray,

Take all my guilt away, Strengthen in ev’ry way My love for You!

May your rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,

My zeal inspire; As you have died for me,

My love, adoringly, Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,

Oh, be my guide; Make darkness turn today,

Wipe sorrow’s tears way, Nor let me ever stray From you aside.

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream

Rolls over me, Blest Savior, then in love Fear and distrust remove;

Oh, bear me safe above, Redeemed and free!

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.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS: “Lord Jesus, Think On Me”

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.

L: Today we see Jesus ask His disciples who He is. While one of them has the right answer, he also has the wrong expectations. So Jesus reminds them and us that a life of following Jesus is a life of self-denial, service and sacrifice. Like the disciples, we also need to be redirected. Let’s confess that now.

C: Merciful God, we confess that our sin turns us from you again and again. We are a sinful generation longing for your mercy. We want not only to save our lives, but to gain

the whole world as well. We are too often ashamed to show our faith to the world around us. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

RESPONSE: "Amazing Love"

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music with corresponding lyrics and guitar chords. The lyrics are: "My Lord, what love is this / And so they watched Him die, / And now this love of Christ / that pays so dear-ly; / de-spised, re-ject-ed; / shall flow like riv-ers; / That I, the guilt-y one / But O the blood He shed / Come wash your guilt a-way, / may go free. / flowed for me. / live for a gain. / CHORUS: maz-ing love, O what sac-ri-fice, The Son of God, / giv'n for me; My debt He pays and my / death He dies, That I might live, / that I might live." The guitar chords are: A/D D, Em7, A7sus, A7, G/D D, D2/A D, Em7, G A D, A, Am7, Am7/G D, Fmaj7, A2, A, Am7, Am7/G, D, Am7, D, Am7, D.

("Amazing Love" by Graham Kendrick, copyright 1989 Make Way Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome your direction and correction in our lives as we worship you today. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL:

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their

soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

**When I survey the wondrous cross On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

MESSAGE: "Why Doesn't God Just Fix It?" – 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: "I'm Forever Grateful"



You did not wait for me _____ to draw near to You, — But You



clothed Your - self with frail hu - man - i - ty. _____ You



did not wait for me _____ to cry out to You, — But You



let me hear Your voice _____ call - ing . me. And I'm for - ev - er



grate - ful to You, _____ I'm for - ev - er grate - ful _____ for _____ the



cross. I'm for - ev - er grate - ful to You _____ that _____ You



came _____ to seek and save _____ the lost. _____

("I'm Forever Grateful" by Mark Altrogge, copyright 1986 People of Destiny International/Pleasant Hills Music, CCLI License #921494.)

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Lay Minister: Jim Geslin