



February 22, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
400 North Broadway Street, Medina, Ohio 44256  
330-725-8885 + [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)  
[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)

**Lent begins** with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to **return to the Lord**. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The **sign of ashes** suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a **new beginning**, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the **spiritual renewal** that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

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(\*Please stand, if you are able.)

*"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.*

*"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.*

## **GATHERING**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Gathering Hymn**                      *Lord Jesus, Think On Me*                      Hymn 599

### **\*Greeting**

D: Behold, now is the acceptable time;

**C: now is the day of salvation**

D: The grace, mercy, and peace of God be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

    a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

R: The word of the Lord.      C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated

as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Return to the Lord*

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**\*Gospel**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*Restore in Us, O God*

Hymn 328

## \*Invitation to Lent

*The assembly is seated. The presiding minister may invite the assembly into the discipline of Lent.*

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

D: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent - self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## \*Confession of Sin

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

D: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

D: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

D: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

D: Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

D: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*

**Imposition of Ashes**

*Out of the Depths I Cry to You*

Hymn 600

*After those who desire ashes have received them and returned to their seats, the minister continues.*

D: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

D: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession** (*You may stand or kneel.*)

D: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

D: O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness especially Adam and family, Bill, Carl, Pat, Dorothy, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: O God, call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color. Open our mouths to speak up and about injustices. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service,



and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence.

Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Sharing of the Peace

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

### Offering

\***Offertory Response**                      *Create in Me a Clean Heart*                      Hymn 186

### \*Offertory Prayer

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.    **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.        **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

<b>Communion Hymns</b>	<i>Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling</i>	Hymn 608
	<i>Now We Join in Celebration</i>	Hymn 462

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear  
the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the  
Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

<b>*Sending Song</b>	<i>O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days</i>	Hymn 319
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**\*Dismissal**

D: Go in peace. Serve in love.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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## PRAYERS

**Prayers for Healing:** Adam and Family, Pastor Bill Lucht, Carl Ulich, Pat Straub, Dorothy Ulich, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 WORSHIP & EVENTS

**First Sunday in Lent**, we will worship in person at 8:30 with *Rhythm & Blues liturgy* and at 11:00 a.m. with *ELW Setting 3* and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**Mentoring Kick-Off** for 8th graders, 8th grade parents, and mentors in the sanctuary from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

**First Communion Instruction** - 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. in the Brown Room.

**Roller Skating** from 1-3 p.m. Discounted rate - \$8.00 for admission and skate rental. Admission only - \$4.00. Invite a friend! All are welcome!

## **Worship Assistants**

Reader:	Sandy Andrews
Ushers:	Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed
Communion	
Servers:	Nancy McNeal Sandy Andrews
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal Sandy Andrews
Sound:	Mike Holthouse
Video:	Melody Costello

## **St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!**

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.  
Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us in the bread and the wine.

### **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

#### **Pastor Steve's Contact Information**

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)  
Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

#### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org)  
Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.