



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

ELW

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † office@stmatthewmedina.org

www.stmatthewmedina.org

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moments

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

No. 807

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Betti Hazelton

WORD

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons.

¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and

sound.’²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.’³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Betti Hazelton

Hymn of the Day

Our Father, We Have Wandered

No. 606

Please use hymnals. No license to reproduce lyrics for projection.

***Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

P: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially Justin, Diane Hulvey, Lisa Henriksen, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, and all people suffering from Covid-19. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Be with us as we look to the future of our Transitional Housing ministry. Guide us and help us to be open to your voice as we discern how we will continue to offer help to those in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Peace:** *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

MEAL

Offertory

All of Grace (11:00)
Shackley

Luther Choir

Offering Prayer

P: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***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: Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

Communion Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

No. 588

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

***Sending Song**

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

No. 848

***Dismissal**

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Date	March 27	March 27	April 3	April 3
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte		Evan Hogan		
Reader	Tim Brown	Melody Costello		
Ushers	Alan & Delores Ivan	Pat Straub		
Communion Servers	Sandy Andrews	Melody Costello		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler
Video	Brian Harris		Rex Rickly	
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal			

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.

Prayers for Healing: Justin, Diane Hulvey, Lisa Henriksen, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, and all people suffering from Covid-19.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Fourth Sunday in Lent, we worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW liturgy and communion. Livestream at 8:30.

We Welcome Pastor Betti Hazelton as our supply pastor.

All Youth Sunday School - Spring Break - No classes today.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Hearing Loop Education - Informational meeting between services in the sanctuary. All those with hearing aids, all those with cochlear implants, and anyone with possible hearing loss, come so we can share information which may literally change your life.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Lenten Meal at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by Lenten Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 3, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent, we will worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW liturgy and communion. Livestream at 8:30.

We Will Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our supply pastor.

Luther Littles Sunday School (Pre-School-5th grade) - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room

Luther Middles/Catechism (6-8 grades)- Spring Break - No class today.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Beautify Our Sanctuary on Easter! A member of the Altar Guild will be in the narthex following each worship service for two Sundays, March 27 and April 3. We will be taking orders for single (\$11) and double lilies (\$24) and spring flowers -- tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths (\$10). Payment, cash or checks made out to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church*, is appreciated at the time of the order.

Look for Kelly Obermeier after the 8:30 service; and Louise Cadwallader after the 11:00 service.

Deacon Lindsay Out of Office March 24-31 for a time of Continuing Education.

Lenten Meals & Worship - Join us each Wednesday evening in Lent beginning with a meal at 6:00 p.m., followed by Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Passion Walk - The Care Connection Team and Small Groups invite you to attend the Passion Walk at Zion Lutheran Church, Valley City, April 9 and 10. Remember the Passion of Christ as you walk through scenes enacted by members of Zion - from the Last Supper to His Crucifixion. Groups start every 15 minutes, beginning at 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. Free and open to all ages!

Boyer's Resurrection Garden Class - Sponsored by Comprehensive Youth. All are invited to join us at Boyer's on April 10 at 3:00 p.m. for their Resurrection Garden Class. Cost is \$15 per garden.

Good Friday Lunch - The Comprehensive Youth Ministry is holding a Lunch on Good Friday (April 15) at 12:00 p.m. as a way to teach our youth the importance of Good Friday using our senses. Everyone welcome!

Easter Breakfast - On Easter Sunday, the Luther League will host an Easter Fellowship Breakfast in between services. Please join us for a breakfast of muffins, bagels, fresh fruit, and egg dishes. If you would like to donate any items, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the Luther League officers at stmattlmedina@gmail.com.

Painting Party - We have reserved All Fired Up on the Square just for St. Matthew on Friday, April 22 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm! Pick a piece of pottery (or more) to paint and get 20% off your total. Bring a snack/dessert/drink to share if you wish. We are limited to 34 people based on the studio's size. Sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/events/507874554253932/> or on the poster in the Narthex.

Ladies Kentucky Derby Luncheon - Mark your calendar for our annual Ladies Luncheon on May 1, 2022 at 12:30. Invite your daughters, sisters and/or girlfriends to join us for a beautiful day to celebrate us! Our theme will be Kentucky Derby, so break out the hats, fascinators and gloves! Look for additional details and Sign-Up Genius coming soon! Sign up in the narthex.

Pull Tab Collection - Join in tab collecting with others in our area to support Ronald McDonald House in Akron and Cleveland. All pull tabs are accepted! (pet food, soup, veggies, beverages, etc.) There are containers located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross to deposit your pull tabs. If you have any questions, call Joyce at 216-780-0965.



Would you like to join the Welcome Wagon??

While we are all counting down the days until Pastor Steve joins us, we are looking for people and ideas to help make him feel welcome in our family of faith. Would you like to help?? Great!! Help comes in all shapes and sizes, so don't be shy.

Please contact Jen Knaggs (330-413-0529 or jenknaggs@yahoo.com) and share your willingness, ideas, and enthusiasm. And be on the look out for a Good News Moment Sunday April 3, 2022.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Hearing Loop
System available.