Mid-Week Lenten Worship

March 22, 2023
7:00 p.m.

"Living God's Love"

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
400 North Broadway Street ✞ Medina, Ohio 44256
330-725-8885 ✞ office@stmatthewmedina.org
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*Please stand as you are able.

Congregation responses in **bold**.

GATHERING

***Confession** *(You may remain seated or kneel.)*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
And lay your hand upon me.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

***Gathering Song:** *Let Streams of Living Justice* Hymn 710

***Greeting**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***Opening Prayer**

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope.

Amen

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 58:6-9

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

[7]Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
[8]Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
[9]Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Matthew 25:31-40

[31]When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32]All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33]and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34]Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; [35]for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36]I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37]Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38]And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? [39]And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40]And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Hymn__ *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* Hymn 484

Act 4 *In Bondage to Sin: We Cannot Free Ourselves*

Offering/Offertory

*__Prayers of Intercession__ *(You may stand or kneel.)*

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

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially Sue, Becky, Arline, Adam and family, Bill, Carl, Dorothy, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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,
receive our prayer.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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, who taught us to pray...

*__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.

*__Sending Song:__ *Christ, Be Our Light* Hymn 715

*__Blessing__

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with all the fullness of God.
Amen.

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Lenten Worship Schedule

Lenten Worship - Wednesday, March 29.
*****Meal at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Palm Sunday - April 2, Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - April 6, Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 7, Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - April 9, Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

***Wednesday Lenten Meals** - We still need four pots of soup and a couple people to set up before the meal on March 29. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A45AFAE2CABFF2-lent1

Please BYOB and bring any extra food items you wish to partake for solely yourself and/or family. If you have any questions please contact a member of Small Groups or Congregational Life. Thank you!

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Sue Lucht, Becky, Arline, Adam and Family, Pastor Bill Lucht, Carl Ulich, Dorothy Ulich, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

No Sunday School - Spring Break!

Blood Pressure Screenings before each service in our Parish Nurse's office.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Reader: Melody Costello
Ushers: Alan & Delores Ivan
Sound: Mike Holthouse
Video: Brian Harris
Altar Guild: Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader

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	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

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Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Hearing Loop System available.