

CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

JOHN 2:13-22

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 3

“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

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.

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"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.
"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

Prelude

I Will Glory in the Cross
Rambo/Hayes

Cindy Piovarchy

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

***Confession and Forgiveness**

D: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

D: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of
one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

D: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We
speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak
up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all
these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

D: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to
us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the
promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Hymn 324

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 Message

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends
of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to
the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great
offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to
us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of
this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,
through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For
Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ
crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those

who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

Return to the Lord

Page 142

***Gospel**

John 2:13-22

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

***Hymn of the Day:**

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Hymn 325

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

D: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

D: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick, especially Karen, the Family of Mary,

June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, the Gibeault Family, Judy, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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

Offertory

I Must Tell Jesus (11:00)
Gilbert Martin

Luther Choir

***Offertory Response**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Hymn 186

***Offering Prayer**

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

Page 144

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.

***Proper Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

Page 144

***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: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

***Lamb of God**

Page 146

Communion Hymns

How Great Thou Art
In the Singing

Hymn 856

Hymn 466

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God.

Prayers for Healing: Karen Strange, The family of Mary Mooney (Rick Sullivan's sister), June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, Gibeault Family, Judy Weir, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

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

Hats for Cups Café - If you would like to learn more about making hats, Judy Weir will be in the Library after the 8:30 service to answer any questions.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 10, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

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

Youth Gathering Prep. - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Spring Care Package Plans - The Care Package Ministry Team is making preparations for the next round of care packages for our college students, which will arrive shortly before their final exams! During March, we will be collecting gift cards, notes, and words of encouragement to include in the care packages. There will be a table in the Narthex with containers for notes and gift cards. If you would like to contribute additional items for the packages, please view our Amazon wish list at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/0TdYUTE?ref=wl_share

Simply add the item you wish to purchase to your cart and select St. Matthew as the shipping address, and it will be delivered directly to the church to be included in the packages! As always, monetary donations are also welcome to help cover shipping costs and to purchase items for the packages. Packages will be assembled on Sunday, April 7. Additional details are forthcoming.

Please contact Deacon Lindsay with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of this awesome ministry!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drive Thru Food Drive - The Evangelism & Communication Committee will hold a drive-thru food drive in the church parking lot on Saturday, March 9, 10 am - Noon. Pull up, pop your trunk, and volunteers will be here to unload without you having to get out of your car. Food donations to benefit local food pantries. All canned and dry good accepted. We also ask members to consider various packages of fruit cups which will support Feeding Medina County, who is packing just under 1,100 weekly bags for kids in the Medina County Schools. **Please refrain from donating expired items.** **Food donations from members can also be dropped off in the narthex on March 3 or 10 if they are not able to make the March 9th drive thru.**

Blood Pressure Screening before and between services on Sunday, March 10, in Brenda's office.

Offering Envelopes - If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like to, please contact Deb in the office. If you are receiving offering envelopes in the mail and no longer need/want them, please contact Deb in the office.

The Church's AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is located in the Pearl Street entrance area, next to the coat rack. It also has a Narcan kit in the box. Today there will be heart-shaped balloons attached to it. Please feel free to take a look, but, please don't touch.

Church Directory Photographs - The Evangelism & Communication Committee will be adding and updating photos for St. Matthew's Online Church Directory on an ongoing basis. If your individual or family photo is not currently available in the directory or you would like to update it, please contact Stephanie Hess at hessstephanie15@gmail.com or 330-441-1130. You can provide your own image or a photograph of you can be taken at St. Matthew before or after church services.

Passion Walk - Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City invites you to their fourteenth annual Passion Walk. The Walk will be held on two evenings, Saturday, March 23, and Palm Sunday evening, March 24. The Jerusalem marketplace will open at 6:00 and the guided walks will begin at 6:15, beginning at the Upper Room and ending at the sealed tomb of Good Friday. The walks will begin every 15 minutes until 8:00, and all spaces are handicapped accessible. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 2233 Abbeyville Road in Valley City. For more information, call 330-483-3873. The web site is www.zionvc.org .

"Getting to Know You" - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to **GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

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Hearing Loop
System available.