

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



**February 21, 2021
Worship at 10:00 am**

February 21, 2021

We welcome you today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Lesley: pastor@stmatthews-elca.org or 817-292-1338. This service includes communion; please have a piece of bread or cracker and juice or wine available to participate.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

**Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 321 "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

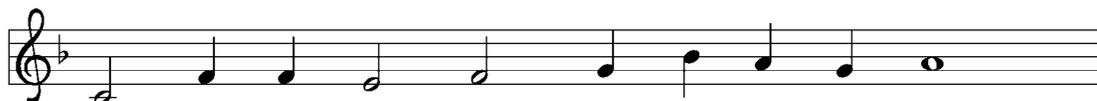
OLD 124TH



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

GREETING

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

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A. Let us pray: **Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis:

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God. Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-10 Read responsively, beginning with the Assisting Minister

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me
according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Refrain: Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

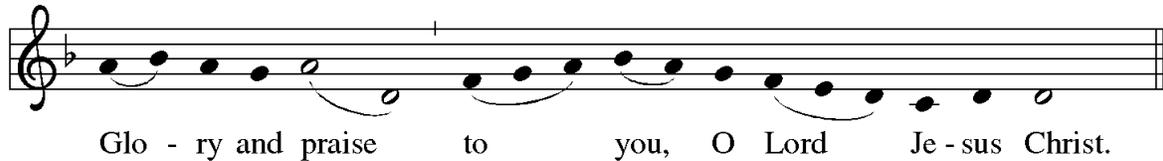
SECOND READING: I Peter 3:18-22

A reading from First Peter:

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God. Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Lesley M. Radius



HYMN OF THE DAY 769 "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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

A. Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All your paths are marked with steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may be truthful and maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Send your caring touch to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who are ill or in need (*especially . . .*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Teach us to walk wet daily and live for the sake of the gospel. Strengthen this congregation's Lay Pastoral Care Team in their care and concern for others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this holy meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the word. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION Amen.

SENDING HYMN 325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

SOJOURNER



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

LENTEN LITANY

During Lent, we remember the events that led Jesus to his crucifixion. He had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every turn there were those who sought to extinguish that light. He offered healing and wisdom, yet his gifts were often rejected by those filled with hatred and fear.

We read in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke: Jesus went to his hometown, Nazareth, and on the Sabbath, he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people."

Jesus rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed upon him, as he said to them, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with anger. They rose up, dragged Jesus out of town and took him to the top of the hill on which their town was built. They meant to throw him over the cliff but he walked through the middle of the crowd and went on his way.

Jesus had said, "A prophet is never welcomed in his hometown," A little of the light which had come into the world was snuffed out by the people who watched Jesus grow up.

One candle is extinguished from the crown of thorns.

THE SENDING

A. Go in peace. Share the good news. **We will; thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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**A gift has been given to ELCA Good Gifts for this Sunday in memory of Faye
Youngblood's grandparents.**

LEADING TODAY'S ONLINE WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Assisting Minister: Mark Vinciguerra
Cantor: Adam Frame
Lector: Ruth Vinciguerra
Videographer: Jacob Martella

Worship Opportunities at St. Matthew's:

Next week's Sunday worship service will be available online at 10:00 am via St. Matthew's website or on YouTube.

Worship on Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24):

- **There will be online worship at 8:00 am via St. Matthew's website, which will be available for viewing online after that time.**
- **There will be in-person worship in the church parking lot at 6:00 pm with God's faithful community gathered around Song, Word, and Sacrament.**

We Pray For:

**Craig Bridges
T. J. Bridges
Annasophia Reese
Barbara Reid
Ross King
Marcia
Friend of Debbie Morse**

**Family members and friends of
Marj Rudolph:
Her sister Reba, her niece and husband in
North Carolina, and Michelle Clark
For all those adversely affected by last
week's wintry weather**

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, February 21

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra on "Lessons Lived Inside Lent" based on each Sunday's lectionary.

10:00 am Live-Streamed Worship

6:30 pm Young Adults in Christian Community on Zoom

MONDAY, February 22

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, February 23

3:30 pm Ready, Set, Go! Center

WEDNESDAY, February 24

8:00 am Online Lenten Worship (available throughout the day)

6:00 pm Drive-In Lenten Worship in church parking lot

7:15 pm Fearless Discipleship on Zoom led by Katrina Martich

THURSDAY, February 25

10:00 am Women's Bible Study on Zoom, led by Pastor Lesley on the book of Job

SUNDAY, February 28

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra

10:00 am Live-Streamed Worship

11:30 am Congregation Meeting on Zoom (**rescheduled from the 21ST**)

3:30 pm Reconciled in Christ Working Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION MEETING – Today's Congregation Meeting has been rescheduled to next Sunday, Feb. 28 at 11:30 am on Zoom.

The Zoom link is: 818 5091 1086 Password 451889

We will review the 2020 Annual Report, choose members for this year's Nominating Committee, and choose representatives to this year's Synod Assembly (April 24th online). We look forward to your attendance to celebrate our ministries.

GOSPEL ALIVE FOR FEBRUARY – **Support for Front Line Responders** Please lift up our front line responders in prayer daily and consider joining the following efforts **through February 28** to show appreciation for the employees at Texas Health-Harris Southwest Hospital:

Mail cards of encouragement:

Texas Health Southwest Hospital
Admin. – Show Support
6100 Harris Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76132

Nutrition Support:

Donate individually packaged, commercially produced snack items: granola bars, nuts, jerky, candy, etc. Many times employees do not have time to break for a meal, so having healthy snacks available in break areas is helpful. We will collect these snacks at church throughout the month of February and then make one large delivery.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR DONATIONS TO THE "BLUE BOX PROJECT" **Feminine hygiene products are being collected at St. Matthew's through February 28** in honor of Katie and Andrew Beckman's God-sister Rebecca who died five years ago. The "Blue Box Project" had been Rebecca's Girl Scout Gold Award project, and the Beckman's have continued to collect hygiene products in honor of Rebecca. Please bring your donations to fill the blue bag in the church narthex, which will be given to Mission Arlington.

HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS OR SPECIAL DONATIONS

Our 2021 Flower Chart is offering options for your Sunday gifts in honor or memory of a special person or event. You may sign up for a particular date and note how you want the \$40 suggested donation used:

Flowers from our florist: \$40 donation covers the cost of the flowers.

Neighborhood Needs: this is our local food and clothing pantry. Write a \$40 check to St. Matthew's, noted for Neighborhood Needs with the date for the Flower Chart and for whom or what special event you are recognizing with this gift.

ELCA Good Gifts. You may write a \$40 check to St. Matthew's, noted for ELCA Good Gifts (designated to their greatest need) with the date to put your name on the Flower Chart and for whom or what special event you are recognizing with this gift.

If you choose Neighborhood Needs, or ELCA Good Gifts, St. Matthew's will write a check to them quarterly. There will be a small plant or flower arrangement for the altar for worship (no charge). **The following dates are open for Sunday hosts: March 14th and most Sundays in May (April is filled) - please call or email the church office soon.**

GOSPEL ALIVE PROJECT FOR MARCH Our Gospel-Alive Project for the month of March will be in support of the families staying at **Fort Worth's Ronald McDonald House**. The following items are currently on their wish list:

Breakfast pastries (Pop-Tarts)

Coffee pods (K-Cups)

1st Class Postage Stamps

Disinfecting spray or wipes

Individually packaged nuts/nut mix, trail mix, snack cakes, beef jerky sticks

CHURCH STAFF

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor

Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf, Organist/Pianist

Kathy Challgren, Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator

Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant

Sarah Wilson and Jocelyne Angeles, Nursery Attendants

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.

We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to everyone!

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133

817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org