
ST. MATTHEW'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



WORSHIP – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2026
11:00 AM

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March 1, 2026 11:00 AM
ELW, Setting 5

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

During Lent, we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The hymn numbers for today's service: #660 #323 #638 #769

PRELUDE

(Please stand as you are able.)*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please face the baptismal font.*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen.**

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. Most merciful God, **C. we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P. Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN "Lift High the Cross"** (ELW 660)

***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.**

***KYRIE** *Sung responsively by the Congregation and Cantor.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



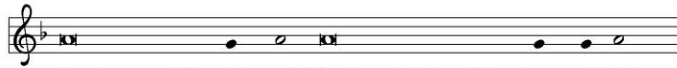
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW 334)**



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: Marty Haugen
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing.

A reading from Genesis:

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will

course, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM 121 *The Cantor will sing the odd-numbered verses.*

(R) Refrain *Sung by all. (Psalm 121:1, 2)*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
my help comes from the LORD.

Psalm Tone

I lift up my eyes to the hills;

Psalm Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007; Psalm Tone from Psalter for Worship Year C © 2006; Augsburg Fortress

- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the Lord,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³ The Lord will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵ the Lord watches | over you; the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷ The Lord will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham, we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises.

A reading from Romans:

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject.

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

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that

person.”³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.”⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.”¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Phil

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“God Loved the World”* (ELW 323)

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

A. We confess the faith in which we are baptized:

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**

A. Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the World and its needs.

A brief silence.

Response after each petition: Hear us, O God, **C. Your mercy is great.**

P. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

***PEACE**

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

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

St. Matthew's offers direct giving through your bank via the QR code. The QR code allows you to give to St. Matthew's securely through Zelle Pay. Scan the QR code, find your bank, and follow the instructions.



CHOIR ANTHEM *"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"* *arr. Howard Helvey*

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.
Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave;
it guides you to abundant life and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.
Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

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As the offerings are brought forward, please stand and sing:

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* (ELW 188)

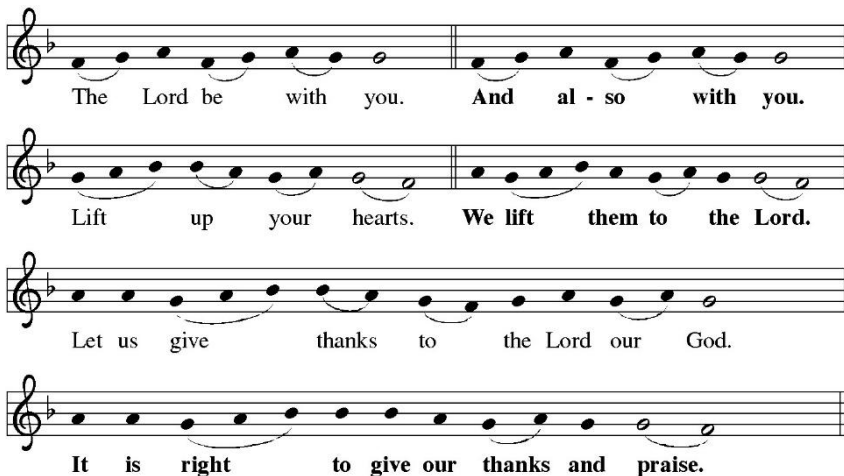
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

*OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

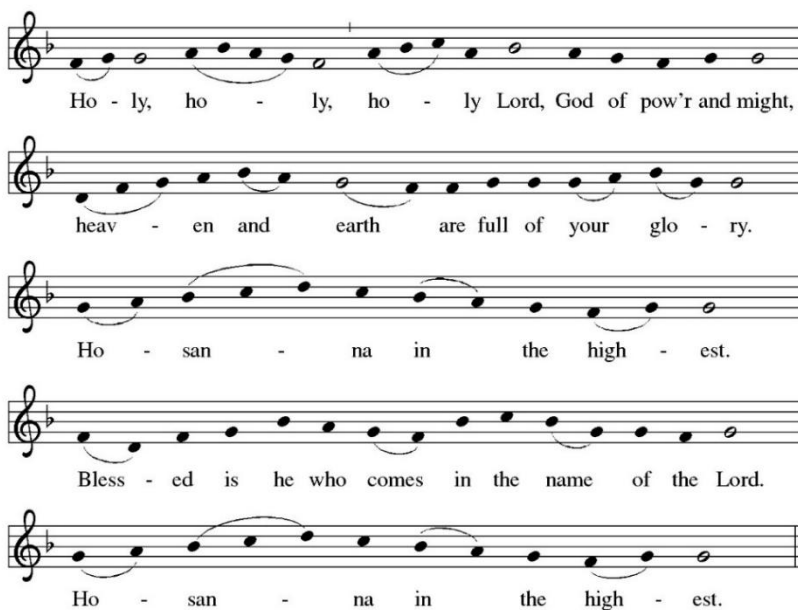
*HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

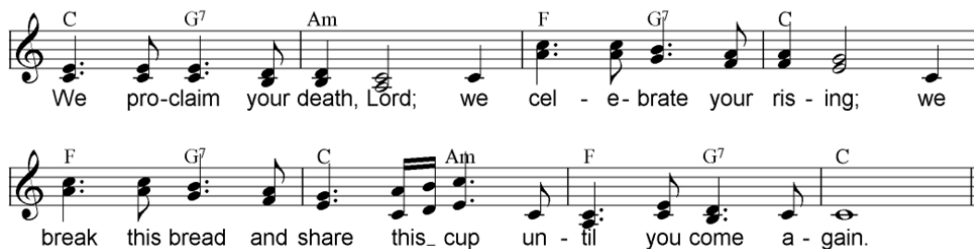
*PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER



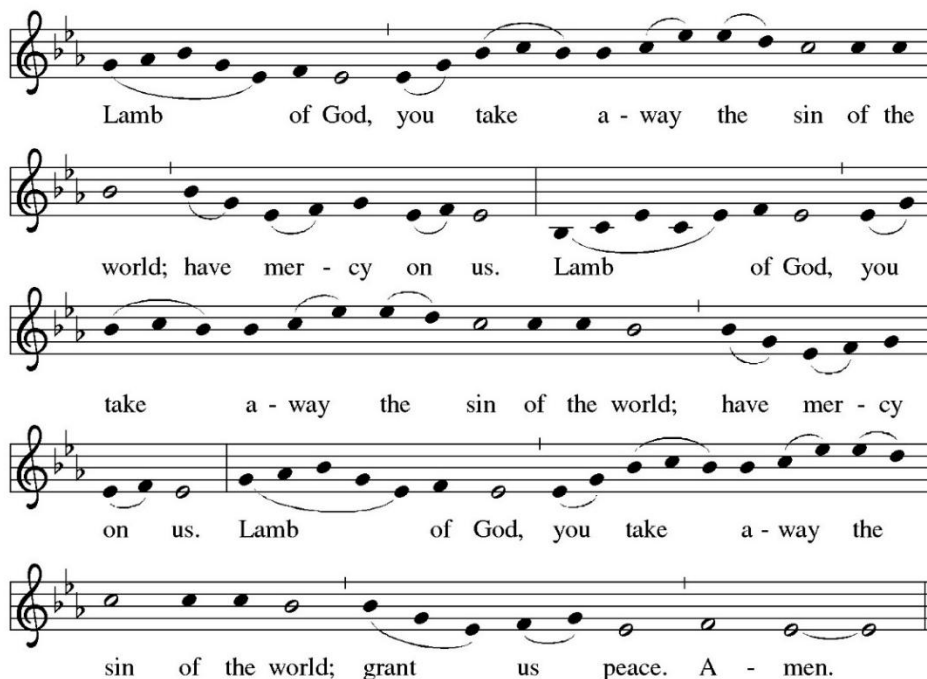
Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics: "We pro-claim your death, Lord; we cel - e-brate your ris - ing; we". The second staff contains: "break this bread and share this_ cup un - til you come a - gain." Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, G7, Am, F, G7, C, F, G7, C.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray:

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



Five staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men." The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

COMMUNION HYMN "Blessed Assurance" (ELW 638)

After all have communed, please stand.

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **C. Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray: **God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" (ELW 769)
Please turn toward the cross as the cross is processed out during the hymn.

***DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C. We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today, March 1</u>	<u>Next Sunday, March 8</u>
Presiding Minister:	Rev. Phil Heinze	Rev. Phil Henize
Assisting Minister:	Charlie Schmidt	Kelly Riddle
Music Director:	Adam Frame	Adam Frame
Organist/Pianist:	John Wolf	John Wolf
Cantor:	Joanne Gustafson	Dub Shepherd
Lector:	Steve Weis	Cindy Kohn
Chancel Care:	Sarah Hadfield	Marcia Boggs
Ushers:	S. Wester, K.C. Iversen	F. Youngblood, G. Christensen
Videographer:	Jeff Manthei	Jeff Manthei
Counters:	K.C. Iversen, B. Anderson	F. Youngblood, Renee Hill

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

WE PRAY FOR:

**Patti Brunnert, Chuck Brunnert, Karen Presley,
George Wiederaenders, David Wester
Mark** – Husband of Jeff Manthei
Dolores – Friend of Joanne and Terry Gustafson
Frances Dunker – Mother of Chris Dunker
Becky Jacobs - Daughter of Lauren Anderson
Christy Hill - Daughter of Win and Sandy Heinrich
Bruce Stanley – Nephew of Nan Gluntz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATION MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 AFTER WORSHIP**

Agenda Items will include:

**Annual Report, Report from the Call Committee,
Approval of Members for the Nominating and Audit Committees,
Approval of Representatives to the April 24-25 Synod Assembly,
and Other Important Items for St. Matthew's**

Lent presents us with the following worship, fellowship, and education opportunities:

Wednesdays in Lent, through March 25

5:45 pm - Eucharist led by St. Christopher's

6:30 pm - Meal. Pr. Phil will be cooking! Helpers will be needed with setup and clean up.

7:00 pm - Program led by St. Christopher's **

7:00 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal for St. Matthew's

** St. Matthew's and St. Christopher are studying the apostle Paul on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7:00 pm. Drawing on this study, we will consider this question: If Paul had written a Passion Narrative, what might he have said, and how might he have told the story? We will share our own reflections on what Paul's version of the crucifixion and resurrection might have sounded like. Led by Rev. Paula and Mark Vinciguerra.

Jubilee Swing Dance is holding classes at St. Matthew's every Thursday evening from 8:30-10:30 pm. Jubilee is a local, family-owned dance company. Join in the fun, learn a new skill and meet new friends while you are at it! Check out their website: jubileeswingdance.com \$15.00 per session.

Next Wedgwood Arts Event:

Tamer Edlebi, Oboist; Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 pm

Tamer is the Assistant Principal Oboist with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. What a treat to hear a member of our own FW Symphony play in our sanctuary! This is a pay-what-you-can event.

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, March 1

- 9:15 am Adult Sunday School for St. Matthew's: The Book of Romans
- 9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher's
- 10:45 am Adult Sunday School for St. Christopher's & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's
- 12:15 pm St. Matthew's Congregation Meeting

MONDAY, March 2

- 7:00 pm Call Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, March 3

- 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, March 4

- 5:45 pm Eucharist, led by St. Christopher
- 6:30 pm Meal served by Chef Heinze
- 7:00 pm Study of the Apostle Paul, led by Rev. Paula and Mark Vinciguerra
- 7:00 pm St. Matthew's Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 5

- 8:30 pm Swing Dance

SUNDAY, March 8

Return to Daylight Saving Time (lose one hour)

- 9:15 am Adult Sunday School for St. Matthew's: The Book of Romans
- 9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher's
- 10:45 am Adult Sunday School for St. Christopher's & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT
Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.
We are Reconciling in Christ, welcoming to all!

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Rev. Phil Heinze | Interim Pastor | phillipheinze@gmail.com
Kelly Riddle | Community Engagement Coordinator | community@stmatthews-elca.org
817-292-1338 | www.stmatthews-elca.org
Like us on Facebook

***GATHERING HYMN "Lift High the Cross" (ELW 660)**



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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***HYMN OF THE DAY** "God Loved the World" (ELW 323)



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

COMMUNION HYMN "Blessed Assurance" (ELW 638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood,
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

***SENDING SONG** "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" (ELW 769)



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
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