

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Third Sunday in Lent ~ March 3, 2024

Color of the Day: Purple—used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

Opening Hymn #428 – Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

Confession and Absolution Page 151

Service of the Word

Introit Page 152

Ps. 69:14-16; antiphon: Ps. 69:69

For zeal for your house has consumed me,*
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

Deliver me from sinking | in the mire;*
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep | waters.

Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,*
or the pit close its mouth | over me.

Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast | love is good;*
according to your abundant mercy, | turn to me.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For zeal for your house has consumed me,*
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (omitted during Lent) Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 156

Exodus 20:1-17

¹And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to 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. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³“You shall not murder. ¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵“You shall not steal. ¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Gradual Page 156

Heb. 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Reading Page 156

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is

stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Choral Anthem

Lent Verse (Return to the Lord) Page 157

Holy Gospel Page 157
John 2:13-25

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore 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. ²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #824 - *May God Bestow on Us His Grace*

The Sermon **Wisdom and Strength ~ 1 Cor. 1:18-31**
Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>

Introduction

There is a war going on for _____.
Sign and Wisdom Seekers
 Paul tells us we have _____.
 We also have _____.
 Christ crucified is a stumbling block _____.
 Christ crucified is foolishness _____.
 But to those who are called _____.

The Power of God

Christ's resurrection showed _____.
 The Ten Commandments remind us _____.
 The weakness of the Lord _____.
 The foolishness of the Lord _____.
 An example of human "wisdom" _____.
What Does this Mean?
 There are basically two _____.
 Man's religion is _____.
 God's religion is _____.
 The cross _____.
 Many in our world revel in _____.
 If we are going to boast _____.
 Praise the Lord _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

CreedPage 158/159

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 159
Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

OffertoryPage 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 160
 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) Page 161

Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord Page 162

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164
Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #427 – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
 #425 – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
 #429 - *We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died*
 (additional hymn(s) if needed: 628 & 637)

Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis) Page 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #433 - *Glory Be to Jesus*