

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025

Color of the Day: Black—is the absence of light. The color calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption. Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

Opening Hymn #607 - From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee
Confession and Absolution. Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon: Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your | steadfast love;*
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from Your | presence,*
and take not Your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (omitted during Lent) Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and

contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our
wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;
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

Joel 2:12-19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your
heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your
hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for he is
gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and
relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink
offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate
a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the
congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing
infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the
LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your
heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say
among the peoples, “Where is their God?”” ¹⁸Then the LORD became
jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and
said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and
you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the
nations.

Gradual Page 156

Hebrews 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, despis- | ing
the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Reading Page 156

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

²⁰We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our
sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might
become the righteousness of God.

^{6.1}Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive
the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to
you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of
salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be
found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves
in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by
purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by
truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of
righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and

dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

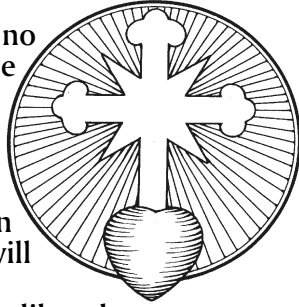
Lent Verse (Return to the Lord) Page 157

Holy Gospel. Page 157

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.



⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Hymn of the Day #447 - *Jesus, in Your Dying Woes* (v. 1-3)

The Sermon. Father Forgive Them
Luke 23:34

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

The Creed Page 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.

Offertory. Page 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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

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

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible. If you have any questions, please speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #843 - *“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
#419 - Savior, When in Dust to Thee
#422 - On My Heart Imprint Your Image
#783 - Take My Life and Let It Be*

Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis) Page 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #921 - *On What Has Now Been Sown*

*For you
are dust,*



*and to dust
you shall return.
~ Genesis 3:19b*