

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023

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 #873 - *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky*
Confession and Absolution Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 27: 4-6; antiphon: Ps. 25:15

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after: *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble; *
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on
a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will
offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy; *

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

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.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (omitted during Lent) Page 154

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning;
and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and
provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily
acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and
serve You in willing obedience; 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

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained
myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will
lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the
rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way
that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level
ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are
turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to
metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that
you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom
I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he
does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify
his law and make it glorious.

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

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk
as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right
and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in
the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful
even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is
exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is
light. Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Lent Verse (Return to the Lord) Page 157

Holy Gospel Page 157

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples
asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born
blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but
that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of
him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As
long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these
things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed
the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"
(which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."
¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."
³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #571 - *God Loved the World so that He Gave*

The Sermon *Walk as Children of Light ~ Ephesians 5:8-14*
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.

Introduction

In the book of Genesis _____ .
 Have you ever noticed _____ .

We Were Darkness

We are conceived _____ .
 We sin not only _____ .
 We rejoice in what _____ .

We Are Light

God has given _____ .
 God has given _____ .
 Why does God give? _____ .
 A part of living _____ .

Paul Warns

Deeds done in the dark _____ .
 Yet, when exposed to light _____ .
 There is no synergism _____ .

What Does This Mean?

We are reminded that we are _____ .
 Not only does God call us to faith _____ .
 Our Lord also calls us to _____ .
 As always, it is our Lord who _____ .

How important are the means of grace? _____ .

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

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 (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

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 #697 - *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

#345 - *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

#737 - *Rejoice, My Heart Be Glad and Sing*

Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis) Page 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Closing Hymn #411 - *I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light*