

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025

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 #568 - If Your Beloved Son, O God
Confession and Absolution Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ **Matins** ✠ ✠ ✠
Page 219

Common Antiphon and Venite Page 220

Readings from Holy Scripture Page 221

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 12: 1-6

¹You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21*

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are

ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We 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.

Choral Anthem

Holy Gospel Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ¹¹And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and



refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Responsory (Common)..... Page 221

Creed

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #571 – *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

The Sermon **Reconciled Ambassadors**

Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswriting.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

The purpose for Lent _____.

The Other Lessons

The Old Testament Lesson _____.

The Gospel Lesson _____.

All this Is from God

The word "reconcile" _____.

The fact that we are reconciled _____.

Christ's atonement _____.

And so we are _____.

Thus, Paul reminds us _____.

All this is from God who _____.

We Are Ambassadors

Our response is that we are _____.

It is only as God _____.

Thus, as ambassadors _____.

What Does This Mean?

First and foremost this means _____.

The fact of the matter is _____.

Our response of faith is _____.

What a great God _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Canticle (Te Deum).....Page 223

First Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings

Our First Fruits and 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.

Prayers of the Church

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ **Service of the Sacrament** ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Preface Page 194

It is truly meet, 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 Page 195

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini......Page 197

Angus Dei Page 198

Distribution Page 199

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that 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...... #609 - *Jesus Sinners Doth Receive*

#432 – *In Silent Pain the Eternal Son*

#725 – *Children of the Heav’nly Father*

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation and Benedicamus...... Page 201

Benediction...... Page 202

Closing Hymn #915 - *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*