

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



**AND THEY LED HIM OUT
TO CRUCIFY HIM.
MARK 15:20**

A Warm Welcome to You from your Friends
in Christ here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church

In the name of Jesus we extend a sincere and warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. We pray your spiritual life will be strengthened through our Lord's Word. We ask that all families present in worship – both our members and our guests – please fill out the Record of Fellowship book laying at the end of the pew. We are happy you joined us for worship today and invite you to return soon.

An Invitation

If you are not actively involved in a church home or have recently moved into our area, we invite you to become a part of our family. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Matthew, you may note your wishes on the Record of Fellowship book or call the church office (281-443-2304). We will be happy to answer your questions and make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Sunday Schedule

Fellowship	8:30 am
Sunday School & Bible Class	8:45 am
Sunday Divine Service	10:00 am

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday and at other special services. **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.**

The Gathering of First Fruits, Tithes & Offerings

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.

The Tenebrae Service

Good Friday – April 18, 2025

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

21434 East Hardy Road, Houston, Texas 77073

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs - Rev. Arturo Mendez

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient Church held a special service in the last days of Holy Week called Tenebrae.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

(All enter the church in silence.)

Stand

Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence

Stand

Collect

P: Let us pray. Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silence

Stand

Collect

P: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

✠ The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠

Hymn

#440 - *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (18:1–11)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this hymns first verse the first candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 1)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (18:12–27).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the second candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 2)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (18:28–40a).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the third candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 3)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (19:1–16).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the fourth candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 4)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (19:16b–24).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the fifth candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 5)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (19:25–30).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the sixth candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 6)

P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (19:31–42).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(During the singing of this next verse the last candle is extinguished.)

Hymn Verse of Response #450--O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (v. 7)

Sermon Hymn #447 - *Jesus, in Your Dying Woes* (v. 19-21)

Sermon *Jesus' Pierced Side*
Text: Zech. 12:10; John 19:34

Hymn #438--*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*

Stand

Bidding Prayer

A: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

P: Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Donald, our President; the Congress of the United States; Greg, our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

P: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

P: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

C: 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.

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C: O Come, let us worship Him.

(Please sit. At this time, the lights in the sanctuary are turned down.)

The lights are turned off. The Christ candle is removed, and remains out symbolizing the burying of Christ, and the Strepitus—a loud sound—is heard, symbolizing the closing and sealing of the tomb.

The lights are brought up to low.

✠ The Reproaches ✠

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me! For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

Micah 6:3-4

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn: #434--*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*, (v. 1)

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me! For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with Living Water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Jeremiah 2:6-7

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn: #434--*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*, (v. 2)

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me! What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people. *Isaiah 5:2-4*

C: Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn: *#434--Lamb of God, Pure and Holy, (v. 3)*

After the hymn the Christ Candle is returned, symbolizing God's continuing presence. The lights are turned back on.

**We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.
God be merciful to us and | bless us,*
and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy up- | on us.
We adore You, | O Lord,*
and we praise and glorify Your holy resur- | rection.
For behold, by the wood | of Your cross*
joy has come into | all the world.**

Hymn: *#454--Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle, (v. 1-4)*

The individual candles will be lit off the Christ candle and the cross will lead in procession to the cemetery where the service continues.

At the Tomb

P: O Lord, open my lips,
C: and my mouth will declare Your praise. Psalm 51:15

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
**C: make haste to help me, O Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.** Psalm 70:1

Psalmody Psalm 51

Scripture Luke 23:50-56

Hymn *#425 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Responsory 1 John 2:1-2; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: Blessed is He whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

The Lord's Prayer

The members of the congregation will bow their heads, and *in silence* pray the Lord's Prayer.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

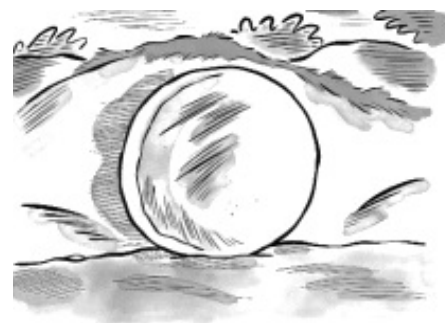
P: Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

There is no Benediction; our worship continues on Easter morning.

Please maintain silence while departing.

Your candles and offerings may be place in the Narthex.

*For God alone,
O my soul,
wait in silence,
for my hope
is from Him.
~ Psalm 62:5*



Celebrate
Christ's Resurrection
with us on Easter Sunday

SONrise Service
at cemetery @ 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast @ 8:00 am

Sunday School & Bible Class
@ 8:45 am

Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper
@ 10:00 am