

*Welcome, visitors! Welcome members and friends of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church. Thank you for joining us in church and on our online service today.*

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*HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our service this morning. +Guests who are baptized Christians, who acknowledge and confess their sinfulness, who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, and who believe that He is really present in Holy Communion to bring us His forgiveness and life, are welcome to the Lord's Table.*

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**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 9, 2025**

**HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 4** pg. 147

Prelude – “Jesus, Still Lead On” – setting, Paul Manz

**WELCOME**

**(Please rise)**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN – ELW 618 GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER**

## **GREETING**

Pastor – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Cong – And also with you.**

## **KYRIE – ELW 602 YOUR HEART, O GOD, IS GRIEVED**

(Cantor will sing first line, then Congregation will sing)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**(Please be seated)**

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

**Bill Wise, Elder**

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

**Cong – Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

*God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)*

(Choir will sing before and at the R)

(The Psalm will be sung alternatively, beginning with Choir)

<sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup>**you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I | put my trust." R**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your | habitation,

<sup>10</sup>**no evil | will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge | over you,  
to guard you in | all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who | cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will | answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I | satisfy them,  
and show them | my salvation. R**

**SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

**Bill Wise, Elder**

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

<sup>8b</sup>"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

**Cong – Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – CHOIR**

“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

(Matt. 4:4)

Pastor – The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Cong – Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

**Pastor Kelly Reagan**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup>and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastor – The Gospel of the Lord.

**Cong – Praise to you, O Christ.**

**(Please be seated)**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON – “Redefining Sonship in the wilderness”**

**(Please rise)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 624 JESUS, STILL LEAD ON**

**PRAYERS**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. We continue to pray for the deliverance of your people oppressed around the world. God, in your mercy,  
**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. Especially we pray for healing for: Pastor Younger, Pat, Laurie, The Stapleton family, Trish, Richard, Carol, Marliese, Elizabeth, Tom, Ron, Bill, Paul, Alisa, Andrew, Marita, Ezra, Linda, Jay, Jim, Edie, Drew, Bob, Tony, BJ, Phill, Patricia, Brian, Khalia, Lori, Larry, Kevin, Kervyn & Sandra. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, all absent members, and those suffering from manmade and natural disasters. Thanks to God as Trish Jordan and Al Lutz celebrate their birthdays. Thank you for all the lives celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and ask that you surround them with your continued love and grace. God, in your mercy,

**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

**Cong - receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always!

**Cong – And also with you.**

**PEACE**

**(Please be seated)**

**OFFERING** – “Be Thou My Vision” – setting, Charles Callahan

**(Please rise)**

**OFFERTORY** – (ELW 184) “Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful..”

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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### OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Cong – Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - pg. 152

#### Preface Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING IV (ELW pg. 111)**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Cong – Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Cong – Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Cong – Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you. O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Cong – Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**(Please be seated)**



# Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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## COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 471 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

(Please rise)

### POST-COMMUNION HYMN - (ELW 207) “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Cong – Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, + bless you now and forever.

**Cong – Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN – ELW 326 BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY**

**(Please be seated)**

Postlude

Pastor –Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Cong - Thanks be to God.**

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Wednesday, March 12 – Meal – 6:00 p.m. (German)  
Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19 – Meal – 6:00 p.m. (Mexican)  
Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26 – Meal – 6:00 p.m. (Italian)  
Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2 – Meal - 6:00 p.m. (American)  
Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 – Meal - 6:00 p.m. (Soup & Salad)  
Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 13 – Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18 – Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19 - Set-up for Easter Breakfast - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20 – Breakfast – 8:30 a.m.  
Worship – 9:30 a.m.

A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex with the theme indicated for each week. Families/individuals are asked to provide one of the food items for supper.

618

## Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams,  
 1722-1796, alt.  
 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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# Jesus, Still Lead On

624

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

# Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER  
10 10 and refrain

# Bless Now, O God, the Journey

326

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: Welsh tune, 19th cent.  
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