

St. Matthew Lutheran Church



March 5, 2025

About today: *We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.*

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Deck Thyself My Soul with Gladness

Fox

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: People of God, what do you need today?

All: A new and right spirit within us.

Pastor: Then come, let us worship God,
whose Spirit moves through us
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the oppressed go free,
to break every yoke.

**All: To share our bread with the hungry
and our homes with the poor
to clothe the naked
and to honor each member of God's family.**

Pastor: We gather in the name of our Triune God,
who calls us to repentance,
who cleanses our hearts,
who opens our lips,
so that our mouths may declare God's praise.

All: Amen.

HYMN***Come Down, O Love Divine*****Littledale/Williams**

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

REETING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray,
Saving God, you never forget those who need you.
You take the part of the poor, the captive, the bound, and the broken, and call your people to do the same. Pour your Spirit into our hearts and wash away everything that keeps us from knowing one another as kin, so that we may be a watered garden in a thirsting world, answering the needs of every part of your creation.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

Pastor: Most holy and merciful God,

**All: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by
what we have left undone.**

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

All: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

You may come forward and kneel or stand to receive ashes from one of the pastors.

After the imposition of ashes:

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Pastor: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

All: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Pastor: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 58

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Bock

OFFERTORY

Lenten Offertory

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Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone. Till our
 cold and self - fish na - tures, warmed by You at
 length be - lieve that more hap - py and more
 bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: As we make our offerings, we pray:

All: God, you gave us what we needed today.

**Now, we offer a portion of these gifts,
 a harvest of love you planted.**

Now bless our gifts and use them in your service.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord Bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Doan/Beck

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1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve in love.

All: Thanks be to God.

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under ccli # 1000682 –
 Also #A-708989 One License.net

Many thanks to those helping with the service:

Altar Guild – Doris Deitzel, Anna Marchio

Ash Preparation – Penny Rutters

Livestream – Doug West

Ushers – Team 1; Tom Shultz, Bob & Kit Curlen, Sean Huston, John Mancini



DINNER CHURCH RETURNS!

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (starting March 12), featuring a meal and healing service reflecting the previous Sunday's theme. With guidance from Scripture and Barn Geese Worship, we are invited to explore what we need to survive and thrive - as individuals, as a church, and as a community. All are welcome to journey with us this Lent! Contact either Pastor Kathy (pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org) or Pastor Alex (pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org) for more information.

Dinner Church Themes:

March 12 - The Need to Embrace Vulnerability

March 19 - The Need for Sleep

March 26 - The Need for an Advocate

April 2 - The Need for Change

April 9 - The Need for Beauty

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