



St. Matthew LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where the welcome is wide and the love is real.

Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or any needs, please let a nametagged usher know. We hope that you experience God's love during worship today.

Our Purpose:

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

Our Core Values:

Embracing one another as God created us

Celebrating together in worship

Deepening our faith in Jesus

Engaging children and youth

Walking with our neighbors

Our Goals:

Enliven faith through worship and learning
Cultivate shared leadership as disciples of Jesus
Connect with children, youth, and families
Bridge the gaps with home-insecure neighbors
Build authentic relationships across difference

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).



Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 10:30 a.m., 2025

All We Need. ©2025 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. Adapted for St. Matthew by Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt and Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman.

PRELUDE Elegy for Organ arr. Bowden

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: A world with more beauty than brokenness.

Pastor: Then come, let us worship God,

All: who brings water to parched places,

who translates weeping into joy, who does great things for us.

Pastor: We gather in the name of our + Triune God,

our creator, our new start,

our endless inspiration.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Trusting in our God, who knows our hearts and who provides

our need for grace and mercy, we confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done, and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved, In the name of Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven and you are entirely loved.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ELW#533 Schmolck/Winkworhth/Neander

(Next Page)



- 1 O pen now thy gates of beau-ty, Zi on, let me en ter there,
- 2 Gra cious God, I come be fore thee; come thou al so un to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in-crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di-vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer. where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, how - so-e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace! my heart, oh, To en - ter thou. let it be thy tem - ple now! that all hear may fruit - ful un - to SO I be life in me. all strife. my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in as Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

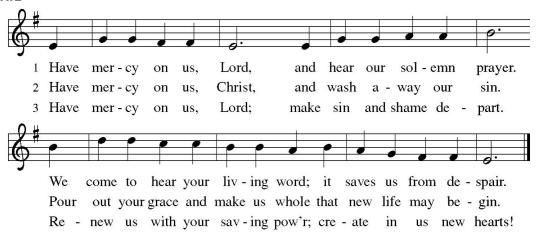
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated

During the singing of the Kyrie, Children second grade and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Beautiful Savior, your extravagant grace waters our parched souls like rivers in the wilderness. Lead us by Mary's example to turn and offer your grace to beautify and dignify the poor, the ignored, and the oppressed. In Jesus' name we pray,

All: Amen.

中 THE WORD 中

THE READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE READING: Psalm 126 (Read Responsively)

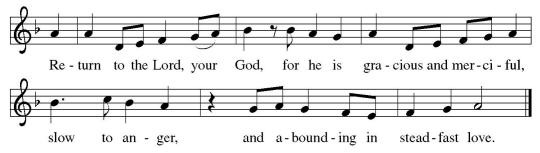
- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- ² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
 - ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
 - ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
 - ⁵ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
 - ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Leader: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Leader: Each petition concludes, "God, in your mercy," and the congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

Children return from Children's Church.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sweet Hour of Prayer
Deb Smith, Piano

arr. Raney

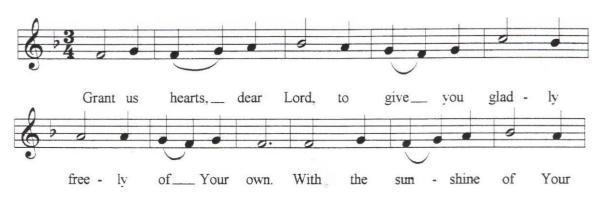
GENEROSITY MOMENT

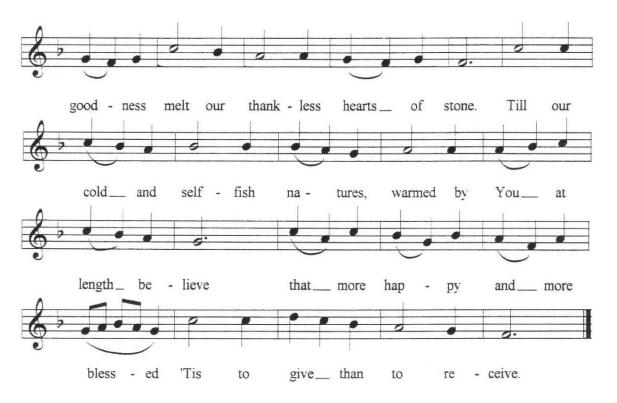
We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Lenten Offertory





THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: 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 the love you planted.

Now bless our gifts and use them in your service.

Amen.

十 THE MEAL 十

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is not only right, but even needful

for us to thank you, God,

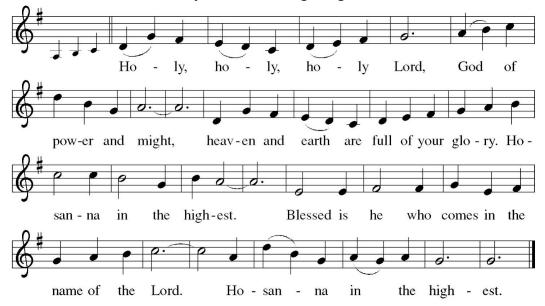
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.

You open your hand to satisfy the needs

of everything that you have made,

and all of creation sings its thankful praise.

And so we join the echoing song.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

Individual packets are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

If you are unable to come forward, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

Continuous manner – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.

Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

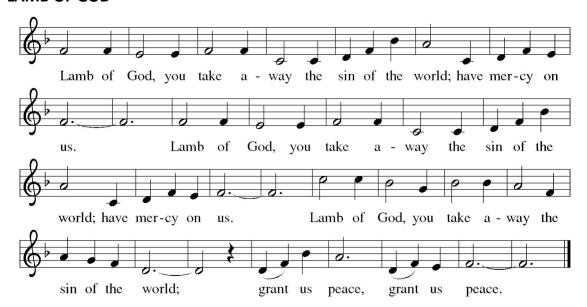
Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (Eat wafer)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (Drink wine)

LAMB OF GOD

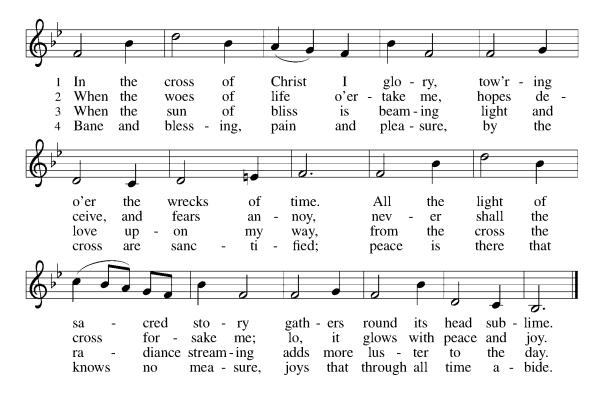


COMMUNION HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW#324 Bowring/Conkey

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Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray,

O Jesus, you have fed us

with the bread that has no price the precious gift of your own self.

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

Pastor: Now may God,

who brings the wilderness into blossom,

who basks in the fragrance of extravagant love,

who blesses those in mourning with a promise of joy,

bless you and sustain you.

Today God has answered your need,

and now the Spirit sends you out

to answer the world's need.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW#879

Pierpoint/Kocher



- 1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the beau-ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de light, 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth er, sis ter, par ent, child,
- 5 For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



love which from our birth for the o - ver and a - round us lies: hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound for the mvs - tic and sight: friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild: to our world so free - ly for thy - self, best gift di - vine, giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Improvisation on St. Thomas arr. Boellner

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

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians	Deb Smith, Piano
Altar Flower Delivery	Pam Cashman
Altar Guild	Penny Rutters, Bonnie Williams
Assisting Minister	Randy Kline
Children's Church Leader	Missy Smith
Communion Assistants	Barb Rupp, Randy Kline
Communion Preparers	Christine & David Myers
Couriers	Barb Rupp, Randy Kline
Greeters	Pam Cashman, Doris Deitzel
Lector	Randy Luckenbaugh
Live Stream	Tom Shultz
Ushers To	eam 3 – Darlene Klenk, Henry Miller, Tyler Klenk,
	Barb Rupp, Dirk Wildasin
	Linda Sanders

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Mihalich by David, Kelli and Adam Reed; in loving memory of Wilmer Rohrbaugh by granddaughter Sally A. Staub; in loving memory of our 56 wedding anniversary which would have been April 7 and Ed's birthday which would have been April 3 by his wife Barb. Ed will be looking down on me.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph J. Bollinger by his daughter Kim Beard; in loving memory of Robert L. Weisendale by the family; in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Rohrbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Lorin A. Rohrbaugh, Miss Lottie I. Rohrbaugh and Mr. and Mrs. Frysinger B. Rohrbaugh; in loving memory of Bill Miller by his wife Lois; in loving memory of Wilmer Rohrbaugh by granddaughter Sally A. Staub; in loving memory of Kimberly F. Peck by her mother and family.

PRAYER LIST: In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

Harriet WenselBert ElsnerChuck EhrmanBobby PorterConner ThompsonLucas CherryEthan ConnerRon HansfordNancy Leister

Shirley Moncrief

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning April 6:

Sunday: John 12:1-8 Thursday: Hebrews 2:1-9
Monday: Hebrews 10:19-25 Friday: Hebrews 2:10-18
Tuesday: 1 John 2:18-28 Saturday: Luke 22:1-13

Wednesday: Luke 18:31-34

In approximately one week, they will begin tearing up the carpet in the whole 2nd floor in preparation for the new flooring to be put in. The 2nd floor will not be usable for a couple of weeks while this remodel is in progress.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation.

SIGN-UP FORM

Please fill out the pertinent part(s) for you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or email the church office at *info@stmattlutheran.org*, listing what you are signing up for and the information requested. See Announcements Page for more details.

I'd like to receive e-mail updates and/or newsletter in the mail. (Proviname, e-mail, and/or mailing address) I am a member of St. Matthew and below is updated contact information.		
Name	Phone	Number
E-mail		
Mailing Address		



I can help with:

EGG CASSEROLES NEEDED! On Easter Sunday, April 20, all are invited to stop in Fellowship Hall for an Easter breakfast at 9:30 to 10:20. Egg Casseroles and pastries will be served. We need several people to donate egg casseroles. Can you help in this way? We also need help setting up and cleaning up. You can let Lori Unger know what you can help with by completing the tear off sheet. Thank you!

Name:	Phone Number:
Egg Casserole (how many):	
/We can help set up:	I/We can help clean up:

Transitioning Online Giving Providers

Thank you to everyone who has made the switch to Breeze! We truly appreciate the quick response and hope it has been a positive experience. If you haven't tried Breeze yet, for **One-Time Gifts**, go

to https://stmatthewlutheranchurch.breezechms.com/give/online following the instructions on the page. You can also access this webpage by going to our website, www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https://www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https://www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https://www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https://www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https://www.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page.

Or, **text the amount** you'd like to donate (example: 50) to **(717) 613-6204** and follow the prompts for a one-time set up. In the future, you'll simply be able to text the gift amount to our giving number and hit send! To text a donation to a specific fund, text the amount and then (example \$25 PM):

PM – Parish Ministry

WM - World Mission

SN – Special Needs

FCI – Future Capital Improvements

PCK – Personal Care Kits



Scan to Give

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Colleen Dubs, our Financial Secretary is usually in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings. If you leave a message with the office staff, she can return your call. Or you can reach her at cdubs@stmattlutheran.org. I also can answer some questions regarding Breeze and you can reach me in the office, 717-637-7101, ext. 226 or at info@stmattlutheran.org.

We truly appreciate your help as we make this transition. It is through your generous gifts that we're able to make a real impact in our community when people need it most. We're so grateful for your continued support which allows St. Matthew Lutheran Church to be faithful to our mission.

PERSONAL CARE KITS PROJECT Disasters - Here or Afar... People Need Our Help!



The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections will be collecting items to assemble **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. People who must flee their homes quickly due to disasters or safety often don't have time to pack essential items. Personal Care Kits help those in need maintain personal

hygiene while living away from their homes. The Kits also contribute to a new start for those who can't return home. LWR is expanding to reach our neighbors in need in the United States, as well as world-wide as they have before. That means that kits will now comfort families here in the U.S. and abroad!

Each Personal Care Kit includes:

- *One new bath-size towel (approx.52"X27"), dark color recommended
- *Two bath-size bars (4-5oz) of soap (must equal 8-9 oz.) in its original wrapping
- *One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- *One sturdy, wide-toothed comb
- *One metal nail-clipper

You may drop off items in the designated boxes located in the elevator lobby, the Gathering Place, or the church office. Monetary donations may be made to be used to purchase bulk items (checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* with "Care Kits" in the memo line). \$10 will cover the cost of the items and help with shipping costs. The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections are combining their efforts for this event. The packing of the kits will take place on **Sunday, May 18, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.** during Faith Connections.

Can St. Matthew meet the goal? 1,000 kits! Together, we can do anything...

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

www.StMattLutheran.org 30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331 717-637-7101

General Mailbox: 221 info@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext 231 pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229 pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext 225 nicksong@comcast.net

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext 235 bboellner@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext 236 dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230 youth@stmattlutheran.org

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232 msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator, ext 222 hannahc@stmattlutheran.org

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Scan for E-Giving

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

17 who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a
wick:

18 Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found

in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own; because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹⁸ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."