

FIRST READING. Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

SECOND READING. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

So he told them this parable:

‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

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Fourth Sunday In Lent

Sunday, March 27, 2022

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!
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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

COVID-19

Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Thank you

Thank you, Sheila Brown, for playing the organ for us this morning. We truly appreciate your musical talent.
If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran



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As we slowly transition back to in-person worship, we are trying ZOOM for midweek Lenten worship. Please join us on Wednesdays throughout Lent at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM (March 30; April 6). **For a ZOOM invitation email Pastor Bart: bartsterc@gmail.com.** Maundy Thursday worship will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 at St. Matthew's, and the Good Friday service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 15 at First Lutheran in Port Colborne.

As COVID restrictions ease, we are happy to include more participants in Sunday morning worship. Please let us know if you are willing to read scripture or the prayers of intercession. We love having a variety of voices participate in our worship each week!

Our annual meeting is today the service in the Fellowship Hall (pizza lunch will be provided).

Open Arms Mission features a specific request for each month, and this month's focus is **juice**. OAM is low on juice, and it is often requested by many families. All types of food donations are well received!

Confession and Forgiveness leader/response

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

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

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The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**Those whose sins are known, confessed,
By the Lord are surely blessed.**

When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

**Those who turn to God in love
Find forgiveness from above.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgive the guilt of my sin.

**Let the righteous raise their voice,
In the Lord, their God, rejoice.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you. When a great flood of trouble comes rushing in, it will not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**Those whose sins are known, confessed,
By the Lord are surely blessed.**

"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you."

**Lo, the voice of God is heard,
Sounding forth his gracious word.**

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

**Let the righteous raise their voice,
In the Lord, their God, rejoice.**

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness ...printed in
bulletin
Gathering Song 807 Come Thou Font of
Every Blessing
Greetingpage 98
Kyriepage 98
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingJoshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32.....printed in bulletin
Second Reading ...2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Gospel Acclamation for Lent ...page 103
"Glory to you, O Lord."
GospelLuke 15:1-3, 11b-32
"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon
Hymn of the Day608 Softly and
Tenderly

Apostles' Creedpage 105
Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response "receive our prayer."
Peace (non-contact
gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgivingpage 107
Holy, Holy, Holypage 108
Eucharistic Prayer IVpage 111
The Lord's Prayerpage 112
Communion
"Lamb of God..."page 112
Communion Hymn779
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song666 What Wondrous
Love...
Dismissal: Go in peace.
Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.