

FIRST READING. Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
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.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

SECOND READING. Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More 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 and 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. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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. 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, I press on towards 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. There 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. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (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.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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Sunday, April 3, 2022

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 we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God’s new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

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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.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.



St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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 (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!

Open Arms Mission focus of the month: **Peanut Butter**

Attention Gardeners! **Open Arms Mission** has a *Plant-a-Row* project planned for this growing season. They are asking teams of volunteers to come and plant a row of beans at the Ministry Campus at 933 Forks Road in Welland. Groups of 3 or 4 people will come and plant a row then return to harvest their row when it is ready. Each group will invest three to four hours of their time planting and harvesting their row. Once the row is picked, the beans will then be frozen and will be given out in the Winter when produce is scarce. Anyone interested can contact Stacy Otting by email (stacyo.oam@gmail.com) or at the Mission Center at (905) 788-3800 to sign up for this project. Thank you once again for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel.

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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Psalm 126 - Tune 347, *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (Gethsemane)

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: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**To the Lord I lift my soul;
God I trust to make me whole.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

**Of the Lord with joy I sing:
"He has done a wondrous thing!"**

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**All on earth his glory tell,
Holy One of Israel!**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, just as the rain brings water back to dry riverbeds.

**To the Lord I lift my soul;
God I trust to make me whole.**

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Of the Lord with joy I sing:
"He has done a wondrous thing!"**

Those who wept as they went out carrying the seed will come back singing for joy, carrying their sheaves.

**All on earth his glory tell,
Holy One of Israel!**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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GATHERING

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"Glory to you, O Lord."

GospelJohn 12:1-8

"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day335 Jesus Keep me
Near the Cross

Installation of Church Council

Prayers of Intercession

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Peace (non-contact
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MEAL

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Communion

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Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song ..338 Beneath the Cross ...

Dismissal: Go in peace.

Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.