

FIRST READING. Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

SECOND READING. Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL. John 4:5-42



Sunday, March 12, 2023

“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. 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.

Lenten Worship

On our journey through Lent, we welcome everyone to our Midweek Lenten Gatherings via ZOOM. Join us on Wednesday at 6:30 PM as we informally explore the Beatitudes.

Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation.

Setting 1

Throughout the season of Lent some of the liturgy comes from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, Setting 1. Lily will briefly practice the gospel acclamation for Lent (page 103) with the congregation before the service begins.

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

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746

email: stmatts@cogeco.net • website: stmatthewswelland.com

Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025

Home Phone289-820-7713

Emailbartsterc@gmail.com

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk

Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut

Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746

Organist: Lily Jasinskas

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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power. Amen.

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From Enriching Our Worship 1, Supplemental Liturgical Materials prepared by The Standing Liturgical Commission 1997. Page 19.

Psalm 95 – Tune: 840 Now Thank We All Our God (nun danket alle gott)

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.

Oh, come, now join to praise
The Rock of our salvation.

Reader: Come into his presence with thanksgiving. Make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

With thankful anthems raise
Your shouts of exultation.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for

he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

Before your Maker bow,
And worship at his throne.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Come with thanksgiving now;
Acknowledge God alone!

Oh, that today you would listen to his voice.

Oh, hearken and obey
The voice of him who feeds you.

Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah and on the day at Massah in the wilderness when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Oh, turn no more astray
From where your Shepherd leads you.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

Before your Maker bow,
And worship at his throne.

So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

Turn with repentance now;
Acknowledge God alone!

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

March 15	6:30 PM – Midweek Lent via ZOOM each Wednesday in March. Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com
April 2	11:00 AM – Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday
April 6	7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran; 688 Elm Street in Port Colborne. Everyone is invited to attend!
April 7	10:00 AM – Good Friday service at St. Matthew’s.
April 9	11:00 AM – Resurrection of Our Lord; Easter Day

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness	Printed
Greeting	
Kyrie (Setting 10)	Page 203
Prayer of the Day	
Gathering Song	658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

WORD

First Reading	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95	printed in bulletin
Second Reading	Romans 5:1-11
Gospel Acclamation for Lent	Page 103
	“Glory to you, O Lord.”
Gospel	John 4:5-42
	“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day 611 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response “receive our prayer.”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer	
Great Thanksgiving (spoken)	Page 107
Eucharistic Prayer	
The Lord’s Prayer	Page 112
Communion	
“Lamb of God...”	Page 112
Communion Hymns	472, 331
Prayer after Communion	

SENDING

Blessing	
Sending Song	807 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.