

FIRST READING. Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord God, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

SECOND READING. Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL. John 11:1-45



Sunday, March 26, 2023

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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. 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 to the last session.

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

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St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746  
email: [stmatts@cogeco.net](mailto:stmatts@cogeco.net) • website: [stmatthewswelland.com](http://stmatthewswelland.com)

Pastor: Reverend Bart Coleman ....Cell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025  
Home Phone .....289-820-7713  
Email .....bartsterc@gmail.com

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk  
Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut  
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn .....905-734-4746  
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.

How glad I was to hear them say,  
"Let us go to God's house today"!

Leader: Jerusalem--what a strong and beautiful city. Here the tribes of Israel come to praise the Lord as he had decreed. David's royal throne is here, where justice rules.

Here may God's mercies never cease,  
And may your walls be crowned with peace!

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem--for all who love her and for all who claim a place in the family.

How glad I was to hear them say,  
"Let us go to God's house today"!

For the sake of the house of the Lord I will seek your good, O Jerusalem, whenever we stand inside your gates.

Here may God's mercies never cease,  
And may your walls be crowned with peace!

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

Dates to Remember

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 29 | 6:30 PM - Midweek Lent via ZOOM each Wednesday in March. Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: <a href="mailto:bartsterc@gmail.com">bartsterc@gmail.com</a> |
| 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  |
| May 5    | 6:00 PM - Ladies’ Night Out; proceeds to support Rose City Kids  |

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness .....Printed Greeting  
Kyrie (Setting 10).....Page 203  
Prayer of the Day  
Gathering Song .886 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

WORD

First Reading ..... Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130 .....printed in bulletin  
Second Reading ..... Romans 8:6-11  
Gospel Acclamation for Lent ...Page 103  
“Glory to you, O Lord.”  
Gospel ..... John 11:1-45  
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day 750 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

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 .....333, 485  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song ..328 Restore in Us, O God

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

Psalm 130 – Tune: 592 Just As I Am, without One Plea (Woodsworth)

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.