

FIRST READING. Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND READING. I Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL. Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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Sunday, February 4, 2024

“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.

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

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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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, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. Amen.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2023 Augsburg Fortress

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us,
Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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.

Psalm 147:1-13 - Tune: 879 For the Beauty of the Earth

Leader: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; it is pleasant and right to praise him.

Let the brokenhearted call
On the Lord who heals them all.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, but casts the wicked to the ground.
He counts the number of the stars and calls each one by name. Great and mighty is our Lord; his wisdom cannot be measured.

Let the lowly lift their eyes
To the Lord who fills the skies.

He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth, and makes grass to grow on the hills. He gives animals their food and feeds the young ravens when they call.

For God's blessings without end
Let our grateful songs ascend.

His pleasure is not in strong horses, nor his delight in brave soldiers.

Let the brokenhearted call
On the Lord who heals them all.

The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who trust his constant love.

Let the lowly lift their eyes
To the Lord who fills the skies.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion!

For God's blessings without end
Let our grateful songs ascend.

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

Dates to Remember

Feb 10	Roast Beef Dinner
Feb 13	5:30 p.m. - Shrove Tuesday at First Lutheran
Feb 14	11:00 a.m. - Ash Wednesday Service at St. Matthew’s
Feb 18	Annual Meeting after the service
Feb 21	6:30 p.m. - Midweek Lent via ZOOM; Feb 28, Mar 6, 13, 20

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Prelude and Welcoming Hymn 315

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness, printed
Gathering Song .. 617 We Come to You
for Healing, Lord

GreetingPage 120
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-13.....printed in bulletin
Second Reading ...1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Gospel AcclamationPage 124
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
Gospel Mark 1:29-39
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day ... 843 Praise the One
Who
Breaks the Darkness

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

MEAL

Offering Prayerprinted
Great ThanksgivingPage 129
Holy, Holy, HolyPage 130
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s PrayerPage 134
Communion
“Lamb of God”Page 135
Communion Hymns684, 787
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song .. 639 When We Are Living

Dismissal: Go in peace. You are God’s
beloved.
Response: Thanks be to God.