

FIRST READING. Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.’

SECOND READING. Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL. Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’



Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 25, 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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Confession and Forgiveness

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

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.

Offering Prayer (read in unison)

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Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. 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 22:25-31 – Tune 347 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Leader: In the full assembly I will praise you.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
With the celebrating throng.

In the presence of those who worship you I will offer the sacrifices I promised.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
Join the grateful in their song.

The poor will eat as much as they want; those who come to the Lord will praise him. May they prosper forever!

Let all nations join to sing
Praises to their gracious King!

All nations will remember the Lord. From every part of the world they will turn to him; all races will worship him.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
With the celebrating throng.

To him indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go to the dust.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
Join the faithful in their song.

Future generations will serve him. People not yet born will be told: "The Lord saved his people."

Let all ages join to sing
Praises to their gracious King!

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Dates to Remember

Feb 28 6:30 p.m. – ZOOM Midweek Lent Gathering; Mar 6, 13, 20
Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com
Mar 1 2:00 p.m. – World Day of Prayer service hosted by First Lutheran in Port Colborne. Everyone is invited to attend.

NOTE: NO COFFEE HOUR NEXT SUNDAY (March 3rd)

St. Matthew’s 2024 Church Council

God has blessed St. Matthew’s with the following people, who have been elected by us, in positions of leadership. May we show them our support as we share in the mutual ministry of St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thank you **Bill Bender and Melanie Funk Laskaris** for your service on Church Council.

Jennifer Rusk – Chair
Dianne Yungblut – Vice Chair
Carole McLeod - Secretary
Bobbie Goldenberg
Bob Hansen
Ruth Kiers
Frances McKenzie
Inge Poetzinger
Marilyn Schultz
Sylvia Tollar

Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to St. Matthew’s

GATHERING

Confession and Forgivenessprinted
Kyrie, from Service of the Word
Page 213
Prayer of the Day
Hymn..... 769 If You
Trust in
God to Guide You

WORD

First Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:25-31printed in bulletin
Second ReadingRomans 4:13-25
Gospel Acclamation, Setting 1
“Let your steadfast love...”Page 103
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelMark 8:31-38
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day 331 As the Deer
Runs to the River
Installation of Church Council
Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“Your mercy is great.”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayerprinted
Great Thanksgiving (spoken)Page 107
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer, sungPage 305
Communion
“Lamb of God”, Setting 1Page 112
Communion Hymns 468, 806
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song 802 Let Us Ever
Walk with Jesus

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share your bread.
Response: Thanks be to God.