

FIRST READING. Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SECOND READING. Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL. John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’




Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 10, 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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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 writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

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 107:1-3, 17-22 - Tune 320 The Glory of These Forty Days

Oh, thank the Lord whose goodness sure And steadfast love fore'er endure.

Leader: Let all the redeemed proclaim that the Lord redeemed them from the hand of the foe. He gathered them out of the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

God reaches down, his own to bless With bounteous gifts of plenteousness.

Some had foolishly committed sins and were in terrible pain. They couldn't stand the sight of food and were almost dead.

Oh, thank the Lord whose goodness sure And steadfast love fore'er endure.

Then in their trouble they called to the Lord, and he saved them from their distress. He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

God reaches down, his own to bless With bounteous gifts of plenteousness.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, his wonderful works to humankind.

Oh, thank the Lord whose goodness sure And steadfast love fore'er endure.

Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

God reaches down, his own to bless With bounteous gifts of plenteousness.

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

Dates to Remember

- Mar 11 1:30 p.m. - World Day of Prayer service at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on 29 Bald St in Welland. If you could not attend World Day of Prayer in Port Colborne, there is a service in Welland. Please RSVP Debbie: 905-734-4831 if you plan to attend.
- Mar 24 11:00 a.m. - Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday
- Mar 28 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday worship at St. Matthew’s
- Mar 29 10:00 a.m. - Good Friday worship at First Lutheran; 688 Elm Street in Port Colborne. Everyone is invited to attend!

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness .....printed Kyrie, from Service of the Word ..... Page 213 Prayer of the Day Hymn .....779 Amaz Grace, How Sweet the Sound

WORD

First Reading ..... Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22.printed in bulletin Second Reading .....Ephesians 2:1-10 Gospel Acclamation, Setting 1 “Let your steadfast love...” ..Page 103 “Glory to you, O Lord.” Gospel .....John 3:14-21 “Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon Hymn of the Day ..... 790 Day by Day Prayers of Intercession Prayer Response ..... “Your mercy is great.” Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer .....printed Great Thanksgiving (spoken) ..Page 107 Eucharistic Prayer The Lord’s Prayer, sung .....Page 305 Communion “Lamb of God”, Setting 1 .....Page 112 Communion Hymns ..... 598, 714 Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing Sending Song ..... 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

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