

FIRST READING. Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

SECOND READING. Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’; as he says also in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL. John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 17, 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, 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 51:1-12 – Tune 347 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; | Make my spirit pure within.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression, and my sin is ever before me.

Let your Holy Spirit be | My companion constantly.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me.

Fill my life once more with praise. | I will serve you all my days.

I have been evil from the day I was born, a sinner from my mother's womb. Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.

Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; | Make my spirit right within.
Let me hear of joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Let my tongue its skill employ | To proclaim your saving joy.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
In your mercy pity me; | From transgression set me free.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; | Make my spirit pure within.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Let your Holy Spirit be | My companion constantly.
Give me the joy of your saving help again, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let my tongue its skill employ | To proclaim your saving joy.
Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

Mar 20	6:30 p.m. – ZOOM Midweek Lent Gathering; Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com
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	.....327 Through
Night of	
	Doubt and Sorrow

WORD

First Reading	..... Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12.....	printed in bulletin
Second Reading	..... Hebrews 5:5-10
Gospel Acclamation, Setting 1	
“Let your steadfast love...”	.....Page 103
	“Glory to you, O Lord.”
Gospel	..... John 12:20-33
	“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon	
Hymn of the Day	..... 701 Once We Sang
	and Danced

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	..... 465, 666
Prayer after Communion	

SENDING

Blessing	
Sending Song	..... 545 Lord, Dismiss Us
	with Your Blessing

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