

**FIRST READING: Matthew 27:11-54**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas.

<sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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Sunday March 29, 2026

Welcome Everyone!

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.

*You are invited to come forward via the centre aisle and form a single line across from the steps leading to the altar area. Once you have communed and the pastor has spoken the communion blessing, you may place your used wine glass into the bowl on the stand near the side aisle. Then you may return to your seat via the side aisle.*

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

**St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Blessing our neighbourhood since 1876**

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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."

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Second Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen.....  
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese .....905-734-4746  
Organist: Lily Jasinskas .....

**Weekly Calendar:**

**Monday:** Pastor’s day off

**Tuesday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Pastor in Port Colborne

**Wednesday:** Pickleball 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
Rose City Quilters 9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Pastor in Welland

**Thursday:** Pastor in Welland

**Friday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Pastor in Port Colborne

**Saturday:** Pickleball 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember**

**Holy Week:**

Maundy Thursday/ Stripping of the Altar: April 2nd: St. Matthew's:  
7 pm

Good Friday: April 3rd: First Lutheran: 10 am

Easter: April 5th: St. Matthew's: 11 am

Council elected the Executive following the AGM on Sunday. Bobbye Goldenerg, Chair, and Carole McLeod, Secretary, will serve a second term in those positions. Marilyn Schultz was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair and Bob Hansen as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair. Ruth Kiers and Beryl Bowen serve as Members-at-large.

The Open Arms Mission has invited our congregation to come together in service and compassion by participating in the **4th Annual Spring it Forward Food Drive**, taking place **April 20–26, 2026** at Seaway Mall. Since 2023, this initiative has brought our community together to support neighbours facing food insecurity. With the generous support of partners like Elevate Living and Purolator, we’ve raised more than \$70,000 and collected over 25,000 pounds of food and hygiene items for local food banks, including The Hope Centre, Open Arms Mission, and Holy Trinity Outreach.

We live and serve on land that for thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked. We live on the traditional territory of several

Indigenous peoples, including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnaabe and the Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their continuing stewardship of this land and we also honour the heritage and gifts of the Métis people.

The City of Welland's new Hospice Niagara, Walker House, Welland has been approved as our Anniversary project for 2026. Envelopes have been provided in the pews or money can be e- transferred to St. Matthew's for forwarding to the Hospice.

**Worship leaders, ushers and counters for this week’s service:**

Scripture Reader Bobbye Goldenberg  
Prayers Marilyn Schultz  
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole  
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

**Worship leaders, ushers and counters for next week’s service:**

Scripture Reader Linda Borland  
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg  
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod  
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Last week’s attendance 17, last year’s attendance 14



**GATHERING**

See insert  
Prayer of the Day

**WORD**

Hymn .....ELW #335 verse one  
“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”  
Passion Sunday Gospel.....Matthew 27:11-54  
Sermon  
Hymn of the Day.....ELW # 342  
“There in God’s Garden”

Installation of Church Council and Congregation  
Officers  
Prayers of Intercession  
“Your mercy is great”  
Sharing the Peace

**MEAL**

Great Thanksgiving .....ELW page 152  
Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....ELW page 153  
Communion Prayers.....ELW page 154  
The Lord’s Prayer ..... ELW page 154  
O Lamb of God .....ELW page 154  
Communion Hymns.....ELW # 324 & 338  
Distribution of Communion  
Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

Announcements  
Blessing  
Sending Hymn.....ELW # 339  
”Christ, the Life of all Things Living”  
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.  
“Thanks be to God”