



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Church & School Phone: 752-1304

James Janke, Pastor 563-4383

Kevin Proeber, Principal 752-5035

www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Worship for the 4th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Opening Hymn: #423 (1-3) "Not in Anger, Mighty God"

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

The Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children.

C: But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.

P: Therefore let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins,

C: asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

P: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess that we are sinful from birth,

C: and that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions.

P: We have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, the apathy and selfishness in our lives.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to confess with our lives the faith that is in us,

C: we confess and plead with you, for Jesus sake to forgive us.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise (*tune of CW, #423*)

C: (sing) Father, hymns to you we raise

With sincere thanksgiving

And the Son and Spirit praise

With repentant living.

Evermore We adore

You whose love has stirred us

And whose pity heart us.

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P: For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Epistle: Acts 2:22-23; 32-41

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. ²³This man, who was handed over by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross...

³²“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that. ³³So, after he was exalted to the right hand of God and after he

received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out what you are now seeing and hearing.

³⁴“For David did not ascend into heaven, and yet he says:

The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand,

³⁵until I make your enemies
a footstool under your feet.’

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Escape from this crooked generation.”

⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 91 (CW, p.100)

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

⁶He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’ ⁸But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir,

leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn: #336 “Come unto Me, Ye Weary”

Sermon Text: Hosea 5:13-6:3

¹³When Ephraim saw his sickness,

and Judah saw his wound,

Ephraim went to Assyria

and sent to the Great King for help,

but he is not able to heal you,

and he will not cure your wound,

¹⁴because I will be like a lion to Ephraim

and like a young lion to the house of Judah.

Yes, I will tear him to pieces and go away.

I will carry them off, and there will be no one who can rescue them.

¹⁵I will go. I will return to my place

until they admit their guilt and seek my face.

In their distress they will earnestly seek me.

^{6:1}**Come, let us return to the LORD.**

For he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us.

He has struck us, but he will bandage our wounds.

²After two days he will revive us.

On the third day he will raise us up,

so that we may live in his presence.

³**Let us acknowledge the LORD.**

Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.

As surely as the sun rises, the LORD will appear.

He will come to us like a heavy rain,

like the spring rain that waters the earth.

“Come, Let Us Return To The LORD”

I. He has justly torn us to pieces

II. He will graciously bandage our wounds

The Apostles’ Creed (CW, p.41)

Offering (may be placed in the basket in the narthex)

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Son of the Father and our flesh and blood brother, how great is your love for us! You carried your cross to Calvary to suffer and die for us. You turned God's wrath away from us forever. You were condemned so we could be acquitted. You did not permit pain, suffering, or temptation to turn you away from the cross.

C: Give us that same single-minded dedication and unshakable commitment as we daily take up our cross and follow you.

P: As we journey through life, keep us from being entangled by sin. Remove all obstacles and stumbling blocks and keep us from falling or going astray. Help us run with perseverance the race you have marked out for us. When that way involves suffering, pain, or loss, help us to see your loving discipline at work to draw us closer to you.

C: Strengthen our faith by the Gospel of your forgiveness as it comes to us in your holy Word and Sacraments. Through these means of grace, make us willing and able to carry the crosses that come into our lives, as you carried your cross for us.

P: Hold before us the example of those who have gone before us, bearing the cross for you. As you led them, lead us. As you strengthened them, strengthen us.

C: Keep our eyes fixed on you, for then we will certainly arrive safely at the heavenly home you have prepared for us.

P: Hear us for your mercy's sake and hear us as we pray as you taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #752 "In Christ Alone"

Prayer (CW, p.43)

C: (sing) Amen.

Benediction (CW, p.44)

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: #440 "On Eagles' Wings"

Members, Visitors & Guests – Welcome to St. Matthew’s!

Let us return to our Lord who has justly torn us to pieces for our sins but who will graciously bind up our wounds for Jesus’ sake. If you are visiting our service, please sign a “care card” in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Week—284 Offering Last Week—\$11,784.00

(Meeting our 2020 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$13,200.00.)

“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always”

Psalm 105:4.

Announcements:

1. **DIY Bible Study** Since we do not know when we will be able to actually meet again face to face for Bible study at church, we are adding a link on our website to a DIY (Do It Yourself) Bible Study. The first study is based on the book of Lamentations. There is an introduction to the book and then a brief study of the first chapter with a bit of application. We hope that individuals, couples, and families will download and print the study and work through it. This present corona-crisis is providing us with an encouragement to continue our Bible study even if we can't come together at church for a formal Bible class. God's blessings on your study. May God open your eyes by his Spirit to see wonderful things in his Word!
2. **Lenten Service** Our fifth mid-week Lenten service will be held on Wednesday, March 25. We will again be recording the service and posting it on our church website for viewing by noon on the 25th. It seems that many members and others tuned in to view last week’s service. We hope that will continue. If you know of anyone who might not know that our services are available on the internet please contact them and let them know. Our church’s web address is: www.stmatthewsjanesville.org. The theme for our Lenten services this year is: *“On The Way To The Cross.”* Using that theme we will be encouraged in our faith and life at each stop we make throughout Lent as we journey with Jesus *on the way to the cross.*

3. **Church Offerings** As you may imagine, the fact that we are unable to meet for worship will impact our financial situation at St. Matthews Lutheran Church and School. In order to continue your support of the Lord's work, you may send your offering envelope to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545 or if you would like to contribute electronically, you may sign up using the "Simply Giving" tab on the St. Matthew's website located directly above "Council Recommendations Concerning Covid-19 Virus".
4. **Simply Giving**— With more and more people avoiding public gatherings, you may want to consider using the "Simply Giving" program for your offerings to the Lord. Your offerings can be electronically transferred from your checking or savings account to St. Matthew's account either every week or once a month. To enroll, you may go online to www.stmatthewsjanesville.org, and click on the Simply Giving tab and you can begin the process.
5. **School will be closed** for the duration of this public health emergency or until a subsequent order lifts the restriction. Emails were sent out to all school families. Packets for each student were prepared by the teachers and can be picked up on Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 10:00-6:00 p.m. You may pick your child's packet up at their coat hook outside the classroom. We are following the rules of social distancing so grab the packet and go.
6. **Easter Flowers.** 'To the glory of God' Easter flowers may be ordered. They will be available for \$13 each if a quantity of 25 are purchased. Envelopes are available on the lower bulletin board. Please fill in the needed information on the envelope and enclose payment. Checks may be made payable to St. Matthew's Evening Guild and placed in the offering plate or left in the office. **The deadline for ordering is March 29.** Thank you for your beautiful gift. Flowers may be taken home beginning on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 am service.
7. **Easter Breakfast, April 12, 2020.** The Evening Guild is planning a breakfast for Easter morning between the two church services from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. We would appreciate donations for the menu being planned for that day. A sign-up poster can be found

on the bulletin board. Please sign up by Palm Sunday, April 5th. For questions please contact a committee member: Karen DeLong-Eichmann (208-8094), Sally Wellnitz (752-2037).

8. **LWMS Mission Offerings** - to coincide with the LWMS spring rally, we will be collecting mission offerings to send in to the circuit. Our circuit offerings will be going toward Outreach to Asians (Home Mission project) and Haiti Projects (World Mission project). These mission projects are generally not included in the synod mission budget, so your support is greatly appreciated. Please give your offering to Ann Janke by Sunday, April 5, so they can be sent to the circuit treasurer in a timely manner for disbursement with the rest of the circuit churches' offerings.
9. **LWMS Spring Rally**- please save the date for the LWMS spring rally which will be held at St. Mark's in Watertown on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. (lunch served at this time). All ladies from our congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend this exciting mission awareness opportunity! Our guest speaker will be Ruth Schmitzer. She has recently traveled to Nepal and will tell us about her experiences there and the mission opportunities that exist. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. For the convenience of young moms, there is free babysitting available. Also, a light breakfast is served starting at 8:00 a.m. Please consider joining us to learn more about Nepal mission opportunities!
10. **Preschool Registration** We will be accepting preschool enrollment forms for the coming school year. Our program for 3 year olds will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (Wednesday optional) from 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1st. Our 4 year olds will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. Children registering for this class must be 4 years old by September 1st. We would like you to get the applications in by **May 17** so a spot can be reserved for you. We will again offer "Afternoon Care for Preschoolers." The purpose of this program is to provide care for the child after preschool is over. This care will be provided on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 3:00. Parents have the option of choosing from one to three days.

After that time, the students will go to the library for our After School Care program. If you have any questions about our preschool or would like an enrollment form, please contact Mr. Proeber or Mrs. Sonntag.

11. **Men's Softball** Any men (18 or older) interested in playing softball on the church softball team this summer should sign up on the bulletin board. Cost is \$30/player. Games are at Dawson Fields on Monday nights beginning in early May.
12. **Future dates to be placed on your calendar.** Summer Bible Camp will be held on July 21-23.

