

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2024

Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations

Opening Hymn 510, "In Christ Alone"

Order of Service.....Setting Two, Page 172

Prayer of the Day: Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)Psalm 41D

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation (*Bottom of Page!*) Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses; *I we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day612, "How Great Thou Art"

SERMON "God Is For You " Romans 8:31-39

Offering Hymn..... 748 v. 1, "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

Nicene Creed.....Pages 180-181

Communion Liturgy Page 183

Communion Hymn..... 677, "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"

Closing Liturgy Page 187

Closing Hymn.....819 vv.1 & 2, "If God Himself Be for Me"

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-18

God gives Abraham a test which will demonstrate who Abraham loves and trusts most.

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "I am here." God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to

you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?" He said, "I am here, my son." He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" Abraham said, "I am here." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-39

The proof of God's love is not that he removes all our trouble. The proof of God's love is that he gave us his Son. If he did that, nothing can separate us from God's love.

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him? Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

Sometimes we fail to stand firm in trial or temptation. But by grace the kingdom of God is still ours because Jesus, as our substitute, perfectly overcame all of Satan's temptations.

The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

ORGANISTS: The **March** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

CALL MEETING: The call which we extended to Mrs. Hannah Schleef to teach 4K/5K beginning with the 2024-2025 school year was returned. Therefore, we have scheduled a new call meeting to take place on **Sunday (TODAY), February 18**, immediately following the worship service. All voters are urged to attend!

MR. LORGE RECEIVES CALL: Mr. Lorge has received a divine call to Zion Lutheran School in Chesaning, Michigan. The call is to be the Principal as well as the Gr. 5-8 teacher. Please keep Mr. Lorge in your prayers as he deliberates this call as well as his current call here at St. Matthew's. Mr. Lorge welcomes any thoughts and comments you may have as he considers these calls.

THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK! Our Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesday, February 21**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest pastor will be Pastor Jeffery Drake of Trinity, Hartford (Huilsburg). Please join us! Please remember that during the Lenten Season there are **NO** Thursday evening worship services held.

PAGE MAGNIFIERS: For those of you who may have difficulty reading the small print in our hymnals and/or bulletins, we now have page magnifiers available for your use. You can find them on the table at the back of church. We do ask that you return them to the table once the service is over.

CHURCH CLEANING – HELP NEEDED!: The Johnson family, who is currently cleaning our church, is looking for a help with these duties. They are finding it a little difficult to get here each week to do this. This is currently a volunteer position which takes only a couple hours each week. If you would be willing to help with these duties, please speak with Karilynn Johnson for more details or speak with Pastor Mose, and he will get you in contact with Karilynn.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY – CHILI & BINGO!: On **Sunday, February 25**, we will be having a chili meal and BINGO event immediately following our 9:00 AM worship service! Additional details about this event as well as a sign-up sheet for food items which may be donated can be found on the school bulletin board. If you do have any questions about this event, please speak with **Cheri Youngbeck** or **Holly Daley**. Let's mingle and BINGO!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 21; Sunday: 111

Offerings: \$4,606.45

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$130.00; Christian Life Resources: \$25.00



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
CALL MEETING – Immediately following worship service
NO Adult & Teen Bible Class
Sunday School 10:15 AM

Wednesday: Lenten Worship Services.....3:15 PM/7:00 PM

Thursday: **NO** Thursday Evening Worship Service
Adult Choir.....8:00 PM

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM
Chili Dinner (w/BINGO) – Immediately following worship service

41D O Blest Are They Who in Their Love

Psalm 41D



1 O blest are they who in their love com - pas - sion
2 When all the e - vils earth can dream are cast on
3 The hands which shared my bro - ken bread, my love with
4 To me, O LORD, in mer - cy turn; your fa - vor,



hold for those in need; for they shall find, when
me, my faith to break, their rage I tem - per
their de - ceit re - paid; and friends whose trust I
my most trea - sured prize; my mouth shall sing re -



faced by foes, the LORD is their de - fense in - deed.
through God's grace, and bear them bold - ly for God's sake.
count - ed mine have left me wound - ed and be - trayed.
demp - tion's song, and tears of love wash clean my eyes.

Text: Michael Morgan, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker

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