

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2021

Jesus both lived and died for us as our substitute—all to win us back to himself.

Opening Hymn 103, “Glory Be to Jesus”

Order of Service..... Service of Word & Sacrament, Page 26

Prayer of the Day: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 6 (page 66)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: *It is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”*

Response to the Verse (OMITTED DURING LENT) – Continue with Gospel Lesson

GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day 449, “Children of the Heavenly Father”

SERMON.....“Lent in a Nutshell” Mark 1:12-15

Nicene Creed Page 31

Offering Hymn (OMITTED)

Communion Liturgy Page 33

Communion Hymn (OMITTED)

Closing Liturgy Page 36

Closing Hymn111 vv. 1-3, “Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing”

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:1-18

God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. Abraham is willing to surrender the son he loves, showing that he fears God.

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 LESSON: Romans 8:31-39

This is an argument from the greater to the lesser. Since God is for us, and since he did not spare his own Son to free us from the condemnation of sin, none of the troubles we have in this life 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 LESSON: Mark 1:12-15

Christ defeats Satan at the beginning of his public ministry; this victory is a prelude to the defeat of Satan’s power on Mount Calvary. Jesus then begins preaching the good news.

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

Please discard this bulletin on your way out or at home. Do not hand back in! Thank you!

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: Hubert Albert/Don Koch; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz.

ORGANISTS!! The **March** schedule is now 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: A call meeting will be held next **Sunday, February 28**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to extend a call for a teacher for our Gr. 1-2 classroom. As many of you are aware, Mrs. Nancy Qualmann will be retiring from her teaching ministry here at St. Matthew's at the end of the current school year. All voting members are urged to attend this meeting!

SERVICE GROUP ACTIVITY – BAG TOSS: As a fun, fellowship activity, bag toss will once again be played in the month of **March**. Bag toss will be held on **Sunday evenings** from **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**. The first date for the activity will be: **Sunday, March 7**. Bag toss is open to those who are high-school age and older. You may direct any questions you have about this to **Doug Schulz**. We will also be in need of some bag toss boards to use. If you intend to participate and can bring some along, that will be appreciated; or, if you don't wish to play but happen to have boards we can use, please let us know. Thank you!

THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK! Our Lenten services will be held on **Wednesday, February 24**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Joshua Kesting of St. Paul's, Neosho. Please join us!

EASTER BREAKFAST: The Church Council has asked that we gauge interest in having Easter Breakfast this year. Easter will fall on Sunday, April 4, 2021. Those who would be interested in attending our Easter breakfast should sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the school hallway. If you have already responded to our online survey, there is NO NEED to sign the sheet again. We have already tallied your response. Thank you for your feedback!

4K REGISTRATION: Registration for our 2021 – 2022 4K classes is underway. Children must be at least 3-1/2 years old by September 1, 2021, to enroll. (3-1/2 year-olds must be fully potty-trained.) If you know of family, friends, or neighbors who may be interested in having a child join our 4K family next year, please feel free to tell them about our program. Registration materials may be obtained through the school office by speaking with **Debbi Foulkes** or **Principal Lorge**.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 26; Sunday: 53

Offerings: \$3,863.00

Tuition: \$1,160.00; **4K Tuition:** \$205.30

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,052.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$20.00; Debt Retirement (Undesignated Memorials): \$60.00

Memorials: In Memory of Judy Reisetter: \$60.00 (*Undesignated*)

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM

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

Thursday: Adult Choir 8:00 PM

Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 AM
***CALL MEETING – Immediately following
worship service***