

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024

Rethinking the Solution to Sin

Opening Hymn 395, “What Grace Is This”

Order of Service (**From Supplement**) Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11

Prayer of the Day: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 32B vv. 1-3

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 570, “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

SERMON “**Some Things Never Change**” Numbers 21:4-9

Offering Hymn 750 v. 2, “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

Apostles’ Creed Page 20

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 576, “Amazing Grace”

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn 811 vv. 1 & 2, “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

The LORD promised a solution for the bite of venomous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God’s promise lived.

They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!”

The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. The people went to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

God’s solution to sin is offered by grace and received through faith.

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey. Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God’s wrath. But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwuygart; next Sunday: Don Koch/Doug Schulz
THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK! Our Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesday, March 13**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest pastor will be Sr. Vicar Zac Meier of St. Paul's, Slinger. Please join us!

CALL MEETING: Our next call meeting to fill our 4K/5K teaching vacancy next year will take place on **Sunday, March 17**, immediately following that Sunday's worship service. All voting members are urged to attend!

EASTER LILIES: If you wish to order a lily (or lilies) to be placed in church for the services on Easter Sunday, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the school hallway. Lilies will be purchased only for those who sign up! After the Easter services, the lily is yours to take home and enjoy. The cost is **\$12.00** per plant. The last day to order is **Palm Sunday, March 24**.

LUTHER PREP – SACRED SPRING CONCERT: Luther Preparatory School in Watertown will present their Sacred Spring Concert on **Sunday (TODAY), March 10**, at **2:00 PM**. The concert will be held in the Luther Prep gym. All are welcome!

PTL MEETING: All school parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, March 18**, beginning at **6:30 PM**. We urge all parents to take an active role in what's happening at your children's school!

LWMS SPRING MISSION RALLY: We will be hosting the LWMS Spring Mission Rally right here at St. Matthew's on **Saturday, April 13**, from **8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**. It will be co-hosted by St. John, Woodland. The speaker and topic will be: **Juan Escobar** who is a seminary student from Doral, Florida. Originally from Colombia, Juan will present on Latin American missions and Academia Cristo. He will also talk about how a basketball camp at Divine Savior changed his life.

On the LWMS bulletin board in the hallway by Mr. Lorge's classroom there will be a sign-up sheet to attend the rally. On the **SCHOOL** bulletin board in the main hallway there will be a sign-up sheet to help set up, serve, and clean up, as well as a sheet to donate food and/or baked good items. Please watch for these to be posted in the near future! Registration for the day will begin at **8:30 AM** with the rally beginning at **9:00 AM** and concluding at **12:30 PM**. Those planning on attending are asked to bring non-perishable food items or cash as a donation for the *Seminary Food Pantry*. Donations will also be taken at registration for the *Working Fund*. If you would like more information about this rally, please speak with **Becky or Abby Schulz**.

SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE: St. Matthew's PTL will be holding its second annual Rummage and Bake Sale on: **Saturday, May 4**, from **8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. As you start your spring cleaning, please set aside items which you would like to donate to this sale. We will let you know when you can start bringing items to the school. Watch the bulletins for further details! As the time draws closer, please watch for a sign-up sheet for baked goods which can be donated as well. This event is being coordinated by **Mrs. Ruth Callies**, so if you have any questions about it or would be able to lend a hand in any way, please feel free to reach out to her!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Lenten Services: 85/28; Sunday: 115

Offerings: Lenten Services: \$1,091.00; Sunday: \$6,083.00

Tuition: \$1,074.00; **4K Tuition:** \$306.00

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

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$285.00; Church Refurbishment: \$30.00

Memorials: In Memory of Gladys Miller: \$10.00 (*Church Refurbishment*); In Memory of Audrey Belling: \$20.00 (*Church Refurbishment*)



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:	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School.....	10:15 AM
Mon. – Fri.:	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK	
Monday:	Elders' Meeting.....	6:00 PM
Wednesday:	Lenten Worship Services.....	3:15 PM/7:00 PM
	Church Council.....	8:00 PM
Thursday:	Adult Choir.....	8:00 PM
	SCRIP ORDERS DUE	
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service	9:00 AM
	CALL MEETING – Immediately following worship service	
	NO Adult & Teen Bible Class	
	Sunday School	10:15 AM

32B How Blest Are Those

Psalm 32B sts. 1-3



1 How blest are those the LORD for - gives; how
2 I si - lent - ly con - cealed my guilt, but
3 I then con - fessed my sin to you, my



glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their
then I groaned all day: your heav - y hand, like
griev - ous guilt and shame, and you for - gave my



guilt a - toned, their rec - ord clean and clear.
sum - mer heat, took all my strength a - way.
wick - ed - ness by your most gra - cious name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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