

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

## *Rethinking Devoted Commitment*

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Opening Hymn ..... 813, “He Will Hold Me Fast”

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

**Prayer of the Day:** Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; 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 121D

### SECOND READING

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

**Gospel Acclamation Verse:** *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

### GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day ..... 707, “Cling Tightly to the Word of God”

**SERMON**..... “Jesus Is the Only Source of Salvation” Hebrews 5:7-9

Offering Hymn ..... 749 v. 3, “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Nicene Creed .....Pages 180-181

Communion Liturgy ..... Page 183

Communion Hymn.....663, “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

Closing Liturgy ..... Page 187

Closing Hymn .....930 vv.1 & 4, “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

**In devoted commitment the LORD promises his people that even if they need to pass through raging waters or walk through a wall of fire, he will be right there with them.**

*But now this is what the LORD says, the LORD who created you, O Jacob, the LORD who formed you, O Israel. Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you cross through the waters, I will be with you. When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flame will not set you on fire.*

*Because I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior, I gave Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious and honored in my eyes, and I myself love you, I will*

*give people in exchange for you, and peoples in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, because I am with you. From the east I will bring your offspring, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, “Give them back!” and to the south, “Do not hold them.” Bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, everyone I created for my glory, everyone I formed, yes, everyone I have made.*

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9

**Because he was truly human Jesus did not relish having to suffer for our salvation. Yet he submitted to the cross out of his devoted commitment to us.**

*In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.*

## GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

**Though the thought of the cross troubles his soul, Jesus was committed to glorifying his Father’s name by winning eternal life for us.**

*Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. “Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”*

*A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”*

*The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours. “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.*

## 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

**CALL MEETING:** Our next call meeting to fill our 4K/5K teaching vacancy next year will take place **TODAY** immediately following the worship service. All voting members are urged to attend!

**THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK!** Our Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesday, March 20, at 3:15 PM and 7:00 PM.** Our guest pastor will be Pastor Jonathan Loescher of Bethany, Hustisford. Please join us!

**LWMS FREE-WILL OFFERING:** On **Wednesday, March 20, and Sunday, March 24,** we will be taking a free-will offering to help support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to: **LWMS.** We hope many of you will consider supporting the missionary efforts of the LWMS!

**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.**

**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!

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Everyone is invited to attend St. Matthew's movie night. This event is scheduled for **Friday, March 22,** beginning at **6:30 PM** in the **gym.** Please watch the school newsletter and/or school Facebook page for the movie selection or call the school office after Monday night's PTL meeting. Popcorn and beverages will be provided, but please feel free to bring any other refreshments you may like for the movie. Please also bring along comfortable seating for you and your family. You are welcome to invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors as well!

**PASSION WEEK SCHEDULE:** Please note the dates and times for our upcoming special services: **Palm Sunday, March 24, 9:00 AM** worship service; **Maundy Thursday** (communion worship services), **March 28, 3:15 PM -and- 7:00 PM;** **Good Friday, March 29, 1:30 PM** worship service; **Easter Sunday, March 31, 7:00 AM -and- 9:00 AM** worship services.

**EASTER BREAKFAST:** On **Sunday, March 31,** between our **7:00 AM -and- 9:00 AM** worship services, we will be hosting an Easter breakfast. **Dean & Suanne Ebert** are our coordinators. Scrambled eggs with ham, breakfast sausages, pancakes and French toast will be provided, but we will need donations of food items to supplement the meal. If you would like to provide something, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board. We will also need volunteers to help set up, clean up, and prepare food that day. You may sign up to help in that way as well. Thanks, in advance, to all who help in any way!

(ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED ON INSERT →)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

**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 is 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!

**WELS CHRISTIAN AID & RELIEF – DISASTER RELIEF FOR TEXAS WILDFIRES:** A terrible wildfire has scorched the panhandle of Texas. It's the largest wildfire in state history. Many have lost their homes or businesses. You can help provide assistance to those in need by donating to the WELS Christian Aid & Relief Fund. The organization has already been able to give away gift cards to help people with immediate needs, and they have also provided some cattle feed to help take care of scattered herds until they can be moved to better pasture. However, there is much more assistance which is needed. Please remember in prayer those who are suffering as a result of this fire and those who are working hard to help them. For further updates and information, please visit the WELS Christian Aid & Relief Facebook page.

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Lenten Services: 64/39; Sunday: 93

**Offerings:** Lenten Services: \$1,383.00; Sunday: \$4,917.45

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

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$15:00; Church Refurbishment: \$10.00

**Memorials:** In Memory of Jackie Schiess: \$10.00 *(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.*

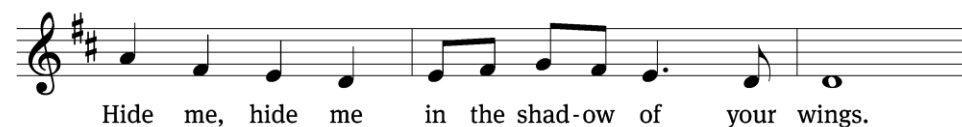
## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Communion Worship Service .....9:00 AM <b>CALL MEETING</b> – Immediately following worship service <b>NO</b> Adult & Teen Bible Class Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM
Monday:	<b>SCHOOL RESUMES!!</b> PTL Meeting ..... 6:30 PM
Tuesday:	School Board Meeting ..... 7:00 PM
Wednesday:	Lenten Worship Services.....3:15 PM/7:00 PM
Thursday:	Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
Friday:	<i>Movie Night</i> (in St. Matthew's gym) .....6:30 PM
Sunday:	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service .....9:00 AM Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM

### 121D Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

*Psalm 121D*

*Refrain*



*Tone*



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
 where does my help / come from?  
 My help comes / from the LORD,  
 the maker of heav- / en and earth.  
 He will not let your / foot slip—  
 he who watches over you will not / slumber;  
 indeed, he who watches over / Israel  
 will neither slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
 the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;  
 the sun will not harm / you by day,  
 nor the / moon by night.  
 The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
 he will watch o- / ver your life;  
 the LORD will watch over your coming and / going  
 both now and for- / evermore.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**  
**and to the Holy / Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- / ginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***