

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025

Always Present, Always Patient

Opening Hymn658, “With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord”

Order of Service.....Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; 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 130B

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation (*Bottom of Page!*)Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to */ perish, but everyone to come to re */ pentance.*

Hymn of the Day 839, “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

SERMON – VIDEO (Part 4) “One by One”

Offering Hymn..... 754 v. 2, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”

Apostles’ CreedPage 163

Hymn..... 799, “I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

Closing LiturgyPage 171

Closing Hymn 923 v. 1, “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-15

The Lord reveals his presence to Moses as flames within a bush—fire that warms and gives light yet does not consume.

Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. So he said, “I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up.”

When the Lord saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!” Moses said, “I am here.” The Lord said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites,

the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now indeed, the Israelites’ cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?” So God replied to Moses, “I am who I am.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I am has sent me to you.” God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God revealed his presence among the nation of Israel. Instead of his presence leading to repentant faith, with a sense of false security the Israelites set their hearts on evil.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

God is always patient, but our time of grace does come to an end at the moment of death. Since that can come at unexpected times, Jesus teaches that the time to repent is right now.

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. Or 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? I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

He 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. So 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?’ But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz; next Sunday: Ronald Knueppel/Bill Keller, III
ORGANISTS: The **April** 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!

THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK! Our Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesday, March 26**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest pastor will be retired Pastor Joshua Kesting of St. Paul, Neosho. Please join us!

LWMS FREE-WILL OFFERING: **TODAY** 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!

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: No one has signed up to host this month's fellowship hour which is scheduled for **Sunday, March 30**, immediately following that Sunday's worship service. If this is something you or a group of you would be willing to do, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board or speak with Pastor Mose today!

PTL MEETING: All school parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, March 24**, 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 28**, 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.

EVERYONE OUTREACH (Part 2): Because our first *Everyone Outreach* program proved to be successful, we are going to host a second event on **Saturday, March 29**, beginning at **9:00 AM**. Once again, there is no cost to attend! *Everyone Outreach* is designed to help our congregation build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. We would like to have as much participation from our members as possible! This is a different program from the first so even if you attended the first event, you should plan to attend this second one as well. Those who were not able to attend the first event are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in this second outreach program! Any questions about this program may be directed to **Scott Mittelstadt**.

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 **\$13.50** per plant. The last day to order is **Sunday, March 30**.

LWMS SPRING MISSION RALLY: The LWMS Spring Mission Rally will be hosted by St. Paul, Neosho, on **Saturday, April 5**, from **8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**. It will be co-hosted by Bethany Lutheran, Hustisford. The speaker will be **Rev. John Borgwardt** who will update everyone on the District's mission work and the home missions in this area. Please look for the sign-up sheet to attend this rally which will be located on the LWMS bulletin board in the hallway next to Mr. Lorge's classroom. Donations will be taken at registration for the Working Fund, and those attending are also asked to bring non-perishable food and household items for the Seminary Food Pantry. If you would like more information about this rally, please speak with **Becky** or **Abby Schulz**.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Lenten Services: 56/34; Sunday: 120

Offerings: Lenten Services: \$2,065.00; Sunday: \$3,771.19

Tuition: \$2,875.00; **4K Tuition:** \$558.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$50.00



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 plate located on the table 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	
Monday:	SCHOOL RESUMES	
	PTL Meeting 6:30 PM	
Wednesday:	Lenten Worship Services 3:15 PM/7:00 PM	
Thursday:	Adult Choir 7:00 PM	
Friday:	<i>Movie Night (in St. Matthew's Gym)</i> 6:30 PM	
Saturday:	EVERYONE OUTREACH PROGRAM 9:00 AM	
Sunday:	Worship Service (Fellowship Sunday) 9:00 AM	

130B Remember Your Mercy, O LORDPsalm 130B

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Out of the depths I cry to / you, Lord;
Lord, / hear my voice.
Let your ears be at- / tentive
to my cry for / mercy.
If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the Lord, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.
I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.
Israel, put your hope / in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.
He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

**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***

Tune: Michael Joncas
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