

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Warrens, WI
6:30 PM Live-Streamed Devotional Service
Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Pre-Service Music & Introduction to Service: Once again, we consider another “Time of Testing”, another period of 40 days in the Old Testament, this time involving the reluctant prophet, Jonah. In each of these times of testing, we’ve see God’s faithfulness and deliverance revealed, despite the sinfulness of mankind. May God’s faithfulness and His promise of deliverance strengthen your faith in Him during the times of testing that we are facing today!

Tonight’s service will conclude with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please note our statement of belief and practice regarding Communion in the back of this bulletin. May God refresh your soul this evening through the gifts of His Word and Sacrament!

We Sing: “This is My Father’s World” (Songbook 302)

**This is my Father’s world, And to my list’ning ears,
All nature sings and ‘round me rings; His grace to me appears.
This is my Father’s world. I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hands these wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world, The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world. He shines in all that’s fair.
In rustling grass I hear him pass; I see his hand everywhere.**

**This is my Father’s world. Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world. Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring.
God reigns; let earth be glad!**

Opening Verses: (Psalm 92:1)

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
To sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,
Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession:

Holy and gracious God,
I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

Prayer for Hearing God's Word:

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Psalm 107* (selected verses)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble.
For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,
for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.
So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor;
they fell down, with none to help.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
and burst their bonds apart.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!
Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;
they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!
Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;
let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Old Testament Reading: *Jonah chapters 2 & 3*

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying,
"I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.
For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,

and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.
Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight;
Yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'
The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.
When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord,
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.
Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!"
And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We Sing: "The Power of the Cross"

**Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood**

**Thus the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross**

**Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow**

**Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
 For through Your suff'ring I am free
 Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
 Won through Your selfless love

This the pow'r of the cross
 Son of God slain for us
 What a love what a cost
 We stand forgiven at the cross

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Devotion: *Times of Testing* – for Jonah and the Ninevites

Prayers for our Neighbors and Ourselves

Evening Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benediction:

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. Amen.

We Sing: "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst hush
 3 When at last I near the shore And the fear -

tem - pes - tuous sea; Un - known waves be - fore me roll,
 the o - cean wild; Bois - t'rous waves o - bey Thy will
 ful break - ers roar Twixt me and the peace - ful rest,

Hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal. Chart and com -
 When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!" Won - drous Sov -
 Then, while lean - ing on Thy breast, May I hear

pass come from Thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

Tune and text: Public domain

The Lord's Supper – *will be celebrated immediately after the closing song. If you have concerns about illness, please know that there is no obligation to commune at this time.*

Statement of Belief and Practice – The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and yet desire to receive the sacrament are asked to speak first with the Pastor. Thank you!

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your Son to die and rise for the sins of the world, and we await His return with patient courage. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, liberate, and defend us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Communion Distribution *(Please come forward to the front step as individuals or couples. After receiving Christ's body and blood, please return directly to your seat.)*

Post-Communion Blessing

Closing Prayer

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending:

P: Go in peace to grow in Christ.
C: **Thanks be to God!**

Announcements:

- This will be St. Matthew's last Wednesday service until later this summer. Please watch our church announcements for the details about when Wednesday services will be resuming.
- On Sundays, June 28th and July 5th, we will have pre-recorded services. We will not have in-person services or Bible studies on those dates. Please watch for our pre-recorded services to be posted on our YouTube page, Facebook page, and church website, stmatthewsonline.org.
- Public services will resume on Sunday, July 12th at 9:15 a.m. Services on both July 12th and 19th will include Holy Communion.
- Pastor Kory will be out of town from Thurs, June 26 – Weds, July 8. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office at 608-378-3233 or stmatthewwarrens@gmail.com.