THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY March 2, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Please stand if you are able during the portions indicated by a +. The congregation is invited to say the words in **bold** and to sing along to the music printed in the bulletin or in the red hymnals in the backs of the pews.

Please be aware that we live-stream our services on Facebook and your image may appear in the video.

If you do not want your image to appear, please speak to an usher.

GATHERING

+ Opening Hymn

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Hymnal #135

+ Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

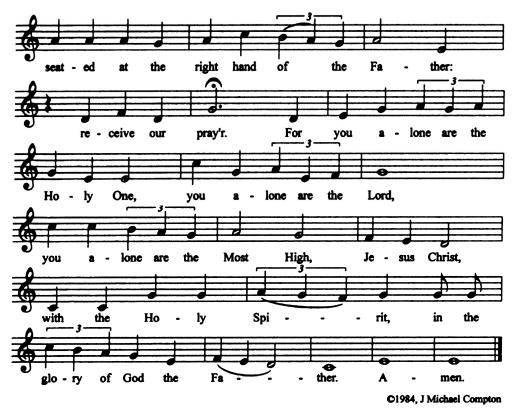
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

- + Welcome
- + Collect (Prayer) for Purity (said by all)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ Gloria in excelsis





+ Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WORD Please be seated.

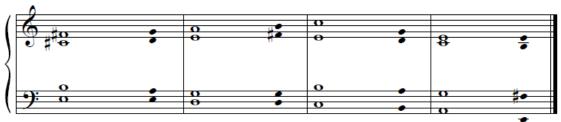
First Lesson Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99 (please remain seated ~ congregation sings verses in **bold**)



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The LORD is King; let the people /tremble; *

he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the /earth shake.

The LORD is great in /Zion; *

he is high above all /peoples.

Let them confess his Name, which is great and /awesome; * he is the /Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established /equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in /Jacob."

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his /footstool; * he is the /Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his /Name, * they called upon the LORD, and he /answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of /cloud; *

they kept his testimonies and the decree that he /gave them.

"O LORD our God, you answered them in-/deed; *

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil /deeds."

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy /hill; * for the LORD our God is the /Holy One.

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God..

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalms are prayers and songs to God from ancient Jewish worship that speak so powerfully to the human condition that they were incorporated into the Bible. Sometimes, they lift up voices of joyful praise. Other times, they speak from the places of deepest lament and sorrow.

+ Gospel Acclamation (cantor begins, the people repeat "Alleluia")



Verse: From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son."

+ Gospel Reading Luke 9:28-36

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

followed by silence

The Rev. Christopher Rogers

+ Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

The Nicene Creed is a confession of faith from the fourth century that affirms the two great mysteries of Christian faith: that ultimate reality (God) is a community of love (the Trinity) and that God joins us in our life and suffering (the Incarnation of Jesus). We say it in unity with followers of Jesus around the world and across the ages.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

+ Prayers of the People

Place your hands together in prayer and move them back and forth.

(hands at forehead)God be in my head and in my thinking.(hands at mouth)God be in my mouth and in my speaking.(hands at heart)God be in my heart and in my loving.(hands open palms up)God be in my hands and in my helping.

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom. O God, You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives, and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; rouse us to work in his name.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn, to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here for you to save your people.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Let us now pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: Daryl, Greg, Katrina, Larry and Pam, Ray, Judy, Lance and Chris, Rosie, Valerie and Devene, Birdie, Pat, Nancy, Ann, Bonnie, Chris, Sarah, and family, Mary, Dan, Elaine, Evelynne, Callum and Boden, Peg, June, Jarrett, Jon, Martha, Chris and Kristine, James and Barbara, Richard, Larry, Tom and Elaine, Nevin, Judy, Ruth and family, Jewel, Ken, Michael, Michele, Gail. Are there others you wish to add?

Presider: O God, who embraced us with perfect love and made us your people when we were yet strangers to you: be present with all refugees, immigrants, and displaced people throughout the world; may they know the consolation of your presence, and the liberating power of your love. Then give us grace, we pray, to extend ever wider your embrace in a world of exclusion, until all your children are knit together as beloved family in the perfect love that is your very heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was displaced among us, and who now lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution (please kneel as you are able)

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

When we've heard God's word from the Bible and the sermon, and offered our communal prayers for the healing of ourselves and all of creation, we take a moment to be honest about our brokenness—and to hear God's steadfast promise of forgiveness and mercy. We then share the peace with each other as a sign of our reconciliation in Christ.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

+ Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

TABLE Offertory

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

"For I Went with the Multitude"

Peter Aston (1938–2013)

For I went with the multitude and brought them forth into the house of God, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving: among such as keep holy-day.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul: and why art thou so disquieted within me? Put thy trust in God: for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 42:4b-7 (1928 BCP)

+ Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

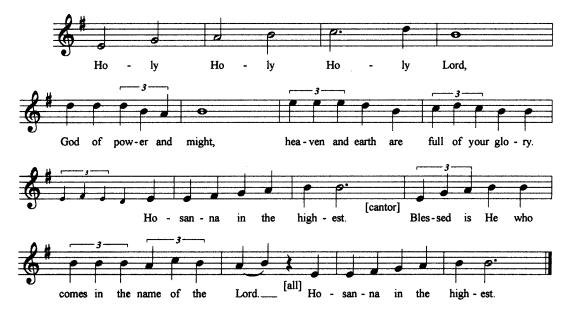
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

+ Sanctus and benedictus



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Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Beatrice, Matthew, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

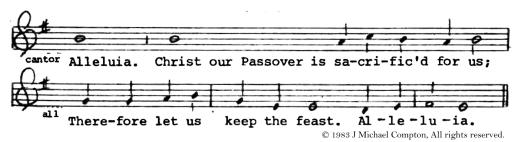
+ The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

+ The Breaking of the Bread

+ Fraction Anthem



+ Invitation to Communion

The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him. So come to this table you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

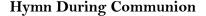
Communion

All are welcome at Christ's table. Please come forward to receive communion. If you cannot come forward for communion, please let an usher know and a clergy person will come to you.

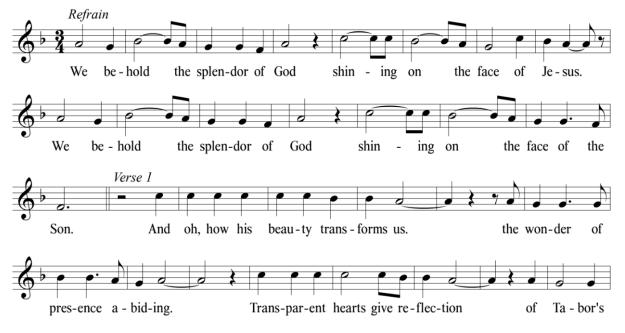
We offer bread broken from a common loaf and wine from a common cup. The church teaches that you have received fully if you only receive the bread. If you choose to receive the wine, you are encouraged to drink directly from the common cup rather than to dip.

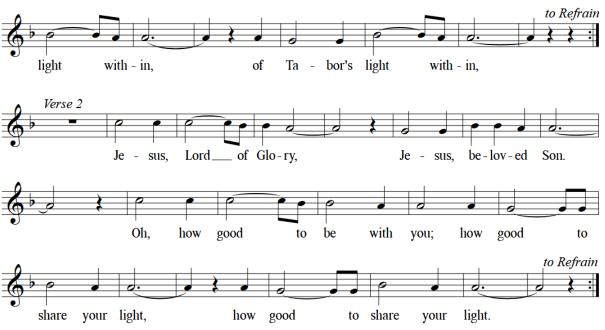
There are also individually-wrapped gluten-free wafers and a pewter chalice reserved for gluten-free.

If you would like the prayer team to pray for you, another person or family, or a local or global situation, please come to the side chapel after receiving communion. Please let them know if you would prefer they wear a mask.



"We Behold the Splendor of God"





Words and music by Carey Landry (b. 1944), Published by Oregon Catholic Press.
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+ Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God and Father,
whose Son at supper prayed that his disciples might be one,
as he is one with you:
draw us closer to him,
that in common love and obedience to you
we may be united to one another
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,
that the world may believe that he is Lord, to your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Postcommunion N1 for Epiphany, Common Worship,
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After we experience this foretaste of God's great heavenly banquet, to which people from every tribe and nation are invited, we are sent forward into the world to participate in God's healing of all creation. When the liturgy ends, our lives of service and worship continue beyond these doors, shaped by how God has met us here.

SENDING

+ Sending of Eucharistic Visitors (when requested)

N., in the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N., to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

+ Blessing

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's ambassador in this world. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn

"O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair"

Hymnal #137

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve our God.

Thanks be to God.

If you are new to St. Matthew's and would like to learn more about our church, you are invited to come forward immediately after the service for a seven-minute welcome led by Joan Hershbell.

Please join us downstairs for "Shrove Sunday" festivities!

Scripture readings next week (The First Sunday in Lent): Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Announcements

Faith Formation

St. Matthew's offers faith formation for all ages each week. For more information on Sunday School and youth group, contact Mia Millares at **kids@stmatthewsmn.org**. For more information on the ongoing Faith Forum series on Creation Care, please contact Chris Lilley at **chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org**. For more information on the Sunday Morning Book Group, please contact Linda López at **lindablopez@gmail.com**.

Shrove Sunday

Today is the last Sunday before the solemn season of Lent. Following the morning service, we will celebrate with pancakes, Mardi Gras beads, and karaoke. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is this **Wednesday, March 5**. We will gather for two services, at 12:00 noon and 5:30 pm. Both services will be upstairs in our sanctuary and will include Eucharist and the imposition of ashes. The second service will feature contemplative Taizé chant. Both services will be followed by a soup meal.

Stations of the Cross Visio Divina

At 7:00 pm on each Wednesday evening during Lent (starting this week), we will gather over Zoom to pray over two or three of the Stations of the Cross, practicing Visio Divina with images of the stations. We will be meditating and reflecting on both classical works of art as well as more modern pieces. For the Zoom link or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Lilley (chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org).

Funeral for Grace Evans

We will hold a funeral service in memory of Grace Evans next **Thursday, March 6**, at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary, followed by a reception with tea, sandwiches, and cake.

World Day of Prayer

Our neighbors at St. Anthony Park Lutheran are observing the World Day of Prayer this **Friday, March 7**, and wanted to make sure everyone knew they were invited. The prayer service will begin at 10:00 am and be followed by fellowship and light refreshments. The World Day of Prayer is a Christian ecumenical initiative, organized by laywomen and celebrated in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

80th Birthday Celebration for Grant Abbott and Elaine Tarone

Elaine joined the elite club of octogenarians a few weeks ago, and Grant will join her in March. This is a time to celebrate! Holy Trinity will be helping us host a lunch (with birthday cake!) in their undercroft next **Sunday, March 9**, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm (1663 Van Buren Ave, St Paul, MN 55104). No gifts, please, but if you like donations might be made to Interfaith Action or Walker | West Music Academy.

March FoodShare Campaign

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign begins this week, and we are collecting donations. Your donations of shelf-stable food and other needs (see poster and collection boxes in office hallway) during March Foodshare month will stretch the ability of Keystone's mission to provide for those in need. This week we especially encourage donations of canned fruit, peanut butter, pasta, and cereal. Let's set a goal of 100 pounds? Thank you so much from our neighbors.

Spiritual Practice for Late Epiphany: Silent Prayer

Having spoken about simplicity at our annual meeting, our spiritual practice until Lent will simply be to keep a period of silent prayer every day. Don't be too ambitious—maybe don't even time yourself. Just take a bit of time, however much you feel comfortable with or need, to sit in the presence of God. Don't expect anything or try to achieve anything—just be.

Prayer list

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi.

ECMN Intercessory Calendar: Please pray for those involved in specialized licensed ministries throughout the Episcopal Church in Minnesota including lay preachers, worship leaders, catechists, Eucharistic ministers and visitors, and lay readers; and for our musicians and worship committees.

Prayers: Daryl, Greg, Katrina, Larry and Pam, Ray, Judy, Lance and Chris, Rosie, Valerie and Devene, Birdie, Pat, Nancy, Ann, Bonnie, Chris, Sarah, and family, Mary, Dan, Elaine, Evelynne, Callum and Boden, Peg, June, Jarrett, Jon, Martha, Chris and Kristine, James and Barbara, Richard, Larry, Tom and Elaine, Nevin, Judy, Ruth and family, Jewel, Ken, Michael, Michele, Gail.

Deceased: (Parish History) William Howard Best, Joseph (Joe) Thomas Dunnwald, John Veltum Bumby, Fannie E. Wakely, Cornelius H. Barnes, Frederich A. Donahower, Mabel Green Ellerbe, Etta W. McKewin, Viola Schwieger, Margaret Milligan, Ruth Lindsay Kirk, Elmer William Ziebarth, Annie Louis Whitney Buell, Mabel Louise Sherriff, Beverly June Smith, George Galton Harris, William H. Stetzler.

Congregational Calendar

Sunday, March 2 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

- 9:15 am Faith Forum Open Discussion (library)
- 9:15 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
- 9:15 am Sunday Morning Book Group (Gathering Room)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Christopher Rogers preaching (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Shrove Sunday Celebration (Parish Hall)
- 11:45 am Youth Confirmation Class (youth room)
- 12:00 pm Crafting and Fellowship (library)
- 5:00 pm Contemplative Evening Service with baptism of Frankie Billing (sanctuary)

Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

- 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday spoken Eucharist (sanctuary)
- 1:00 pm Community Lunch (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist (sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Community Supper (Parish Hall)
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross Visio Divina (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Choir practice (sanctuary)

Thursday, March 6

• 2:00 pm Funeral for Grace Evans (sanctuary)

Friday, March 7

• 10:00 am World Day of Prayer (SAP Lutheran)

Saturday, March 8

• 9:30 am Centering Prayer (library)

Sunday, March 9 The First Sunday in Lent

- 9:15 am Faith Forum (library)
- 9:15 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
- 9:15 am Sunday Morning Book Group (Gathering Room)
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Christopher Rogers preaching (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:00 noon Birthday Celebration for Grant and Elaine (Holy Trinity)

All weekdays

8:00 am Daily Morning Prayer (Zoom)

For more information about any of these offerings or the Zoom links, please email office@stmatthewsmn.org.

St. Matthew's staff

The Rev. Christopher Rogers, Rector, rector@stmatthewsmn.org
The Rev. Dave McEachron, Curate, dave@stmatthewsmn.org
MiaLisa McFarland Millares, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, kids@stmatthewsmn.org
J Michael Compton, Music Director, jmichaelcompton@aol.com
Lars Christensen, Office Manager and Communications Director, office@stmatthewsmn.org
Fariba Sanikhatam, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@stmatthewsmn.org

Wardens

Barrett Fisher, Senior Warden, barrettf215@gmail.com Lis Christenson, Junior Warden, lisdc@comcast.net

Ministry leaders

Liz O'Toole, Altar Guild Judy Johnson, Healing Ministry Kate Vold and Cathy Wilkowske, Acolytes Gwen Odney, Readers and Prayer Leaders Eric Odney, Ushers Laura Bathke, Vergers

Today's worship leaders

Mary Griffin and Bob Bros, readers
Katie White and Annika White, prayer leaders
Kennedy Nyenya, verger
Frankie Billing, Veronica Billing, and Michaela Lilley, acolytes
Eric Odney and Dan White, ushers
Karen Dickson and Janet Murphy, chalice bearers
Liz O'Toole and Nancy Alholm, Altar Guild
Heather Halker and Judy Johnson, Healing Prayer
Paul Kiehne, live-streaming
Mollie Jenkins and Liam Kiehne, nursery
Emily Kingston and Olivia Kingston, childcare assistants
Joan Hershbell, seven-minute welcome
Duane Pulford and Amy Fisher, counters
Gwen and Eric Odney, hospitality team coordinators
Christopher Sibilia, cantor

Jenny Bach, Peter Cartford, Lars Christensen, David Colwell, Laura Corcoran, Heather Craig, Kristine Granias, Lynn Jenkins, Judy Jones (on leave), Susan Jones (on leave), Dave McKenna, Christopher Sibilia, and Dave Wilkowske (on leave), choir



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A Neighborhood Church with a Worldwide Community
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www.stmatthewsmn.org + Facebook and Instagram @stmatthewsmn



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