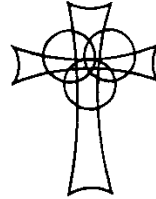
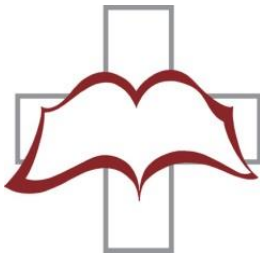


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*A Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*



The Sacred Season of Lent 2021
The Road Back to God

Midweek Lenten Devotions and Bible Study
The Second Wednesday of Lent
The Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle
February 24, 2021

Service of the Word in the Season of Lent

✠ *Jesus, Mercy!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1, 39:13

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;
C hold not Your peace at my tears.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

- P** ¹Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
- C** ²**Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!**
- P** ³Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- C** ⁴**For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.**
- P** ⁵He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- C** ⁶**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.**
- P** ⁷He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
- C** ⁸**Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!**
- P** ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- C** ¹⁰**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**
- P** ¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Scripture Study for the Day

The Road Back to God

The Beginning of the Road: The Creation

The Prayers:

P In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and to ask for His mercy and grace.

For Your holy people, that they may, with Your aid, resist evil and grow in grace, we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

P For all those preparing for Baptism and confirmation, that they may live by every word that proceeds from Your mouth, we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

P For the leaders of the nations, that You will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth, we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

P For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away,

we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

P For the sick in body, mind, and spirit, that they may know Your power to heal, we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

P For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see You face to face,

we pray to You, O Lord:

C **Lord, graciously hear us.**

- P** Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God, offering up to Him our prayers either silently or aloud.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C **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 Collect of the Week:

- P** Let us pray.
O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle:

- P** Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Reading:

- P** Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Lenten Season:

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Closing Prayer:

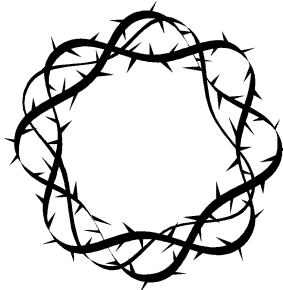
Ignatius of Loyola (1556)

- P** We pray:
- C** **Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labor and not to seek for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do Your will. Amen.**

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** **Amen.**

If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net.



Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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