

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today! It is our prayer that God would fill you with His grace and peace as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus. If you have questions about St. Matthew's or would like to speak to one of the pastors, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information on the back cover.

EXACTLY WHAT I NEED

Sight

I recognize that I am spiritually blind when I don't know Jesus. I cannot see the world as it really is. I am tempted to see what is harmful as good, and what is good as meaningless. I cannot see the danger that lurks behind every temptation. I realize that Jesus gave physical sight to the blind. But he also gives me spiritual vision. He said, "I am the light of the world." He comes to shine his light into my darkened eyes so that I see him and live.

About the Altar Paraments: The clothes that adorn the altar change with the church year. The purple of Lent reminds us of royalty as our king goes to war to defeat our enemy, doing so through his suffering and death. The crown of thorns and 3 nails on the ambo's parament caused great suffering. Little did Pontius Pilate realize his words when he ordered the sign posted above the cross – "**J**esus of **N**azareth **K**ing of **J**ews" thus the initials I.N.R.I. Latin uses the "I" instead of the "J," "Rex" is king.

For Your Convenience

- ◊ A Hearing Loop is available.
- ◊ A Parents' room is available in the back of the sanctuary for those with small children.
- ◊ A Mother's room, located in the parents' room, offers privacy for nursing mothers.
- ◊ Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher upon request.
- ◊ Please silence your cell phones before worship.
- ◊ View services on Charter 985 on Thursdays at 12PM and 7PM or Sundays at 10AM. You can also visit https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+oconomowoc
- ◊ St. Matthew's is on Instagram. You can follow us @St.MatthewsOconomowoc.

The Order of Worship for
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING FOUR

(This setting uses some of the melodies from Divine Service 1)

576:1-2 **Amazing Grace**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

576:3-4 **Amazing Grace**

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Holy Baptism

During our 10:30am service this week, we rejoice with Adam and Whitney Wagner as their daughter, **Hattie Jo**, will be baptized! God's richest blessings to Hattie.

First Reading *Isaiah 42:14-21*

God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness to light.

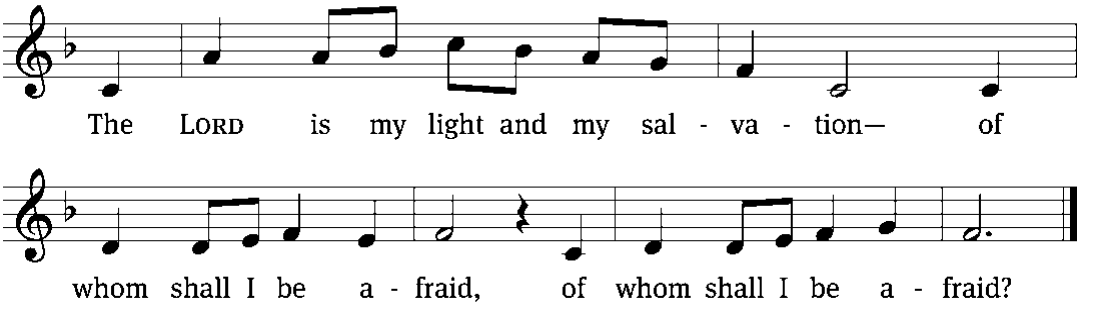
14 "For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.
17 But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.

18 "Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
19 Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?
20 You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen."
21 It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

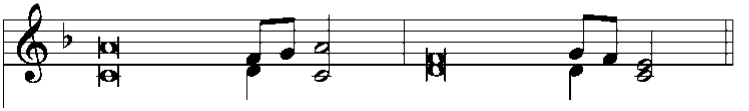
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27C — The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Refrain



Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.
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*

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Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14*

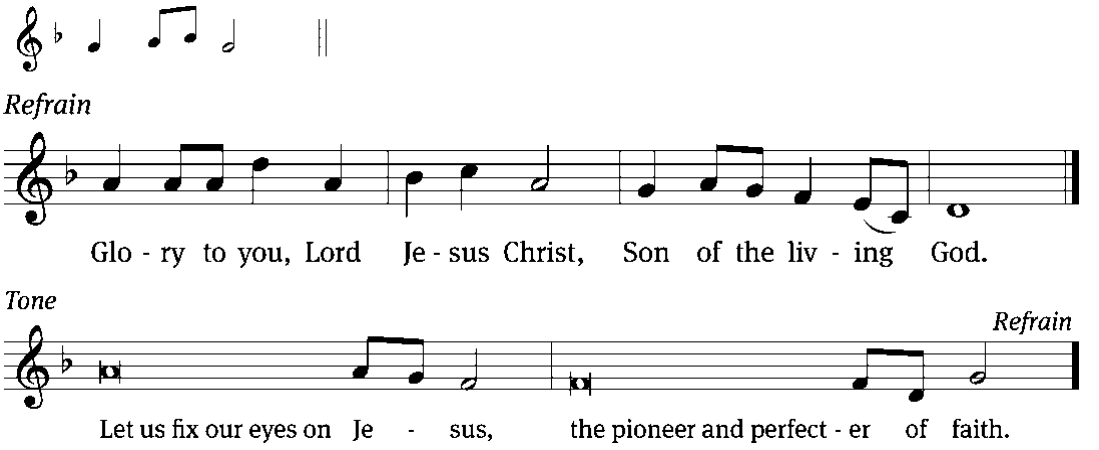
Once I have seen the light of Christ, I strive to leave deeds of darkness behind.

[8]For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of
light [9](for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) [10]and
find out what pleases the Lord. [11]Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of
darkness, but rather expose them. [12]It is shameful even to mention what the
disobedient do in secret. [13]But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and
everything that is illuminated becomes a light. [14]This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Hebrews 12:2*



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Gospel (Sermon Text) ***John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39***

Jesus enables a man who had been born blind to see him both physically and spiritually.

[1]As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. [2]His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

[3]"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. [4]As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. [5]While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

[6]After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. [7]"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

[13]They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. [14]Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. [15]Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

[16]Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

[17]Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

[34]To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

[35]Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

[36]"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

[37]Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

[38]Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

[39]Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn 904 **O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

Sermon **An Encounter with Jesus Never Leaves You the Same**

Pastor Philip Bigelow

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Connection Cards and Offerings

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today and we would love to stay connected with you. To help us do so, please fill out the Connection Card in the seat back. You may place it in the offering plate as the offering is gathered or hand it to one of the ushers. You also have the ability to record your worship or give a gift using the appropriate QR code below. Those who have downloaded the St. Matthew's App can check-in and give offerings directly through the app. You may also text GIVE to 833-921-6451.

Guest Form

St. Matthew's App

Give Online

WELS Connection

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 517:1 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

In Our Prayers: May the Lord comfort the family of **Esther Beguhn** who was called home to heaven last Sunday and the family of **John Lenz**, the father of Mike Lenz, was called home to heaven last week. We rejoice with **Mark & Peggy Audley** as they celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on March 21. God's continued blessing be with **Myron Sankey** as he celebrates his 89th birthday this weekend. May our Lord strengthen **Cliff Rupnow** and **Nancy Jenkins** who have been hospitalized this week, **Russ Peterson**, the father of Heather Backus, who is recovering from a stroke.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	Next Weekend – March 21 & 22
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig	**Wednesday 4pm –** Jason Cox **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** Todd Helwig **Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Wiess
Greeters	**Early** – Jim & Bev Fulmer **Late** – Jim & Bev Fulmer	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late** – Rudy & Chris Dovnik	**Saturday** – **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late** – Allen & Karen Andreasen
Organist	Char Bouche	**Wednesday** – Linday Smith **Sunday** – Melody Ryan
Special Music		Rejoice!
Projection	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late** – Harper Gerczak	**Wednesday 4pm –** Matthias Uttech **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** Toby Brandenstein **Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late** – Heather Bigelow	**Wednesday 4pm –** Heather Bigelow **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** Rik Krahn **Saturday** – Karen Haertel **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Joel Aldinger
Livestream	John Schuh	**Wednesday –** Mike Bouche **Sunday –** Nathan Bergh

This Week at St. Matthew's

Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study 20/30's Caffeinated Conversations Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 4 & 6:30 pm 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Senior Fellowship Lenten Service Lenten Meal
Thursday	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Rejoice! Church Council Meeting Men's Chorus
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Open Forum Sunday School; Teen Bible Study

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study
This Sunday's Adult Bible study will expand the theme of this weekend's worship as we dig into the other two readings, expanding our understanding on what a blessing it is that God gives us sight! Parents with young children, childcare is available for children ages 0-3 in the Pre-K2 room so that those parents can attend class.

Sunday School and Teen Study
Sunday School will be studying the account of Jesus before Pilate. PreK-K meet in the Flex Room (over halfway down the school hallway). Grades 1-6 meet in a Sunday School Room across from the Band Room. Teen study meets in the Teen Room across from the Band Room. A new study will begin called "Spending Holy Week with Jesus."

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class – No Class this week (Mar. 18)
Join us as we study the book of Daniel. Most people recall that he was in the Lion's Den, but there so much more! Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space.

Men's Bible Breakfast – 2nd Saturdays of the Month
Calling all men to come for a great breakfast and a study of God's Word. Breakfast starts at 7:30am on the second Saturday of each month. Pastor Bigelow is leading the topic, "Connecting Sinai to Calvary."

Grounded in God
SHINE Women's Ministry would like to invite all St. Matthew's women and friends to join us for Coffee and Devotion, "Grounded in God". Join us in the Gathering Space at Church at 7:45 a.m., conveniently after school drop-off. Children are welcome!

Acknowledgments
Setting Four from Christian Worship
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Highlights and Announcements

Open Forum & Financial Update – March 22
We'll be sharing a current financial update at our Open Forum on Sunday, March 22 at 9:15 AM in the sanctuary. Come hear where we're at with our ministry plan, learn more about our planning and budget work for the future, and ask questions.

New Member Sunday: March 21 & 22
Join us March 21 & 22 for New Member Sunday as we welcome and pray for those who have recently joined St. Matthew's. Take a moment to greet our new members and help them feel at home in our church family.

Teen Ministry Sunday
Palm Sunday, March 28–29, is Teen Ministry Sunday! Our teens will use their gifts to help lead worship, greet members, assist with A/V, play music, read Scripture, serve coffee, and guide the little children with palm branches. A collection after services will support their 2026 WELS Youth Rally trip to Bowling Green, OH, and donations are also welcome online anytime. Teens who would like to participate are encouraged to contact Pastor Voss.

Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters FUNDRAISER!!
St. Matthew's School is raising money to purchase new lighting for our theater productions! When you use **discount code "Nest"** at check out, you'll receive 15% off your order and St. Matthew's School will also receive 15% of your purchase! Visit the link and start shopping! https://www.berresbrothers.com/

Spring Carnival at St Matthew's!
All St. Matthew's and First Steps families are invited to our **Spring Carnival** on **Saturday, March 28th, 10:00 AM – 1 PM**! Join us for games, treats, and fun activities for kids of all ages. Come celebrate spring, connect with our community, and make lasting memories together! For more details and to volunteer or donate, visit **smls.org/events.**

Easter Breakfast – Help & Food Donations Needed!
Join us Sunday, April 5, from 7–10 AM in the Commons for a light Easter continental breakfast. We're looking for volunteers to serve and help with clean up on Easter morning, and we welcome food donations delivered Saturday, April 4, between 8–10 AM. Your freewill offering will support a felt storyboard mission project for Hope Lutheran Church in Houston, TX! **Sign up to volunteer or donate here**!

Senior Fellowship
Senior Fellowship meets on the first and third Wednesdays in March—March 4 and **March 18—at 1:30 p.m.** in the church Gathering Area (enter through the main doors). Each gathering begins with a devotion, followed by cards and games until about 3:30 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Questions? Contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 S 4th St., Watertown. Trinity is served by Pastors Brett Brauer and Lucas Proeber. Rev. Phil Henselin, Executive Director WELS Institutional Ministries, will give us updates on the Institutional Ministries. OWLS meetings are handicapped accessible, last about two hours with refreshments and time to socialize with others. Seniors who are retired and/or 55+ years are encouraged to attend OWLS and guests are always welcome!

Blue Butterfly Work Night: MAR 30
Join us FOR Blue Butterfly Work Night on **MARCH 30** from 4–6:30 PM. Please contact Bev Fulmer by phone or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

Hearing Assistance Available!
If you need assistance with hearing at worship and use a telecoil-equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant, simply switch the device into the T-Coil mode by using your hearing aid app or remote to receive clear sound during worship. (If you are having issues, please contact your audiologist.) Either way, you will clearly hear everything from liturgy to sermon to music.



Lent Meal Schedule

March 18	Church Council – Shredded Beef Sandwich, Mac & Cheese
March 25	Girl Pioneers – Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Pasta Salad

OUR MISSION *COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST,*

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

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St. Matthew's CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Steps CHILD CARE CENTER

WORSHIP SERVICES SATURDAY: 5:30 PM | SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Christian Education For All
SUNDAY 9:15 AM

Phone :

Church:	262.912.6060
School:	262.912.6364
First Steps:	262.912.6338

Welcome Visitors: Please fill out the connection card in pew or scan

SCAN ME

Location :
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@StMatthewsOconomowoc

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