

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

---



*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

---

Pastor Christian McMullan  
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director  
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania  
610-458-5675  
[www.stmatthews-church.org](http://www.stmatthews-church.org)

## WELCOME

Please stand

## GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## OPENING HYMN

40

I waited patiently for the Lord  
He inclined and heard my cry  
He brought me up out of the pit  
Out of the mire and clay

I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
How long to sing this song?  
How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long?  
How long, to sing this song?

He set my feet upon a rock  
And made my footsteps firm  
Many will see  
Many will see and fear

I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song?  
How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long?  
How long to sing this song?

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A: A reading from the Book of Genesis, the second and third chapters.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SECOND READING

## Romans 5:12-19

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the fifth chapter.

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shepherd me, O God ELW 780

*Refrain*

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 4:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## MESSAGE

*Please stand*

## HYMN

## Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

## THE PRAYERS

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

P: ... Hear us, O God.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

P: 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.

Remembering your covenant to Israel and to all people  
you sent Jesus our Redeemer to proclaim your coming reign.  
Through him you have freed us from sin, reconciled us to you,  
And restored us to the glory you intend for us.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life  
and await his coming again in glory.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit.

Enfold in your arms all who share this bread and wine.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit that we may be a living tree,  
Sharing Christ's life and love with all the world.

Through whom all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

**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**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for our journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains us,  
✠ bless you now and always.  
C: Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN**

## **Your Grace is Enough**

Great is Your faithfulness O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters into mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

(So) remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise O God

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

(So) remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise O God

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **St. Matthew's Staff**

Pastor Christian McMullan [cmcmullan71@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmullan71@gmail.com)

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director [worship@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:worship@stmatthews-church.org)

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785

Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381

Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675

Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator 610-458-8121