



ALTERED

by the spirit

March 10, 2024

Lent 4 “Altered Through God’s Creativity”

Sunday, March 10, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude *“Rockingham”* A. Rowley

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)

*Hymn 604 *“O Christ, Our Hope”*

*Greeting

*Kyrie (see page 5)

*Prayer of the Day

Children’s Message

Anthem *“God So Loved the World”* T. Keesecker

Word

Thematic Litany (see pages 6)

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 (see page 7) *(sung responsively by full verse)*

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

*Lenten Gospel Acclamation p. 103

*Gospel Reading John 3:14-21

*Hymn of the Day 323 *“God Loved the World”*

Sermon

*Apostles’ Creed p. 105

*Prayers of Intercession **A: your mercy is great.**

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 188	<i>"Create in Me a Clean Heart"</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 107
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 108
*Thanksgiving at the Table		
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 112
Lamb of God		
Communion Hymn 592	<i>"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"</i>	
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		

Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 339	<i>"Christ, the Life of All the Living"</i>	
*Dismissal		A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Dialogue et Plein Jeu"</i>	F. Couperin

Cover image and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Holy God,

We confess that we have rejected the refuge you offer.

**A: We try to hide behind self-sufficiency and pride,
but you see us, and love us still.**

P: We confess that we have chosen strife over peace;
we want to be right more than we want to be in right relationship.

**A: Forgive us for the ways we have rebelled against you
and harmed our neighbors in action, thought, or indifference.**

P: We confess that we have settled for convenient comforts,
for palm-sized imitations of mercy and justice.

**A: Your mighty hands break the bow and topple the throne,
yet also gather and shelter us like a mother hen.**

P: We confess that you know what we need and gladly provide it.

**A: Grant us the courage, patience, and trust
to receive and share your love.**

Amen.

P: Hear this...

Kyrie

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son,



Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - son.

O God, help us to take action with those who live in fear. Strengthen our hearts to listen to the painful cries we hear. *Refrain*

O God, meet us in our longing for the friends and things we know. Root us in love that sustains us; show us where we must let go. *Refrain*

O God, weave our lives together; may we chase away despair! Give us the tools to fight privilege, speaking truth with utmost care. *Refrain*

Thematic Litany

P: For us, you created
mountains and valleys,
hummingbirds and albatross,
mustard seeds and redwoods,
wild animals and beloved pets.

A: We praise you, creative God.

P: In us, you created
hearts that long for wholeness,
minds that seek understanding,
senses that experience Creation,
and a divine spark of your holy image.

A: We praise you, creative God.

P: With us, you are creating
stories of life beyond death,
songs of hope beyond despair,
meals of abundance beyond greed,
and visions of heaven on earth.

A: We praise you, creative God.

P: May we create
blessings for our neighbors,
peace in our communities,
and harmony with the Holy Trinity.

A: Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Communion Server: Grace Schuester

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Dylan Siebert, John Waterfield

Flute: Julia Crnko

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

In our prayers Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

Pastors Holiday: The pastors will be taking a holiday week during March Break from March 11 - March 17. During this time, Pastor Heike Toeller from St. Luke's will be on call for pastoral emergencies at 519.212.9952. The Rev'd Dr. Allen Jorgenson will preach and lead worship on March 17th.

Silence. Darkness. Meditation. Reflection. Things that have been stolen away from us in today's hectic world. Lent is the most contemplative period of the Church Year, the perfect time in which to take back the night. Join us at St. Matthews for Silence in the Sanctuary, a spiritual journey that will help you gain a greater understanding of this church, how the Holy Spirit is present within it, and, perhaps, about yourself. As we move throughout the Sanctuary, we move closer to God. Come and enjoy the silence on Wednesday, March 20th, at 7pm.



Silence in the Sanctuary

A new mid-week Lenten experience.

Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Lower Level Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Lower Level Sanctuary Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 am

Celebrate with us Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palm branches and song in an Intergenerational Service.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28

Soup Supper at 5:00 pm, Service at 7:00 pm

Gather to commemorate the Last Supper and the Footwashing.



Good Friday

Friday, March 29 at 9:30 am

Join us to observe the most solemn day of the church year; the day Jesus was crucified.



Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30 at 8:00 pm

Come join us for the most important service of the entire year...celebrated for the first time in a long time here at St. Matthews!



Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 am

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy!

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 3	pastorcarey@stmattskw.com
Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
Deacon Scott Knarr	Ext. 4	deaconscott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Donate](#)



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER
N2G 3H2
519.742.0462

stmattskw.com
info@stmattskw.com