



ALTERED

by the spirit

March 17, 2024

Lent 5 “Altered Alongside Our Enemies”

Sunday, March 17, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“O Welt, ich muss dich lassen”</i>	J. Brahms
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 321	<i>“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie (see page 5)		
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake”</i>	R. Farrant

Word

Thematic Litany (see pages 6)		
First Reading		Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (see page 7)		<i>(sung responsively by full verse)</i>
Second Reading		Hebrews 5:5-10
*Lenten Gospel Acclamation		p. 103
*Gospel Reading		John 12:20-33
*Hymn of the Day 328		<i>“Restore in Us, O God”</i>
Sermon		
*Apostles' Creed		p. 105
*Prayers of Intercession		A: your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Thanksgiving for the Word

- *Offering Hymn 188 *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*
- *Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220
- *Lord’s Prayer (*Our Father in heaven...*) p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 338 *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

*Dismissal **A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *“Voluntary in D Minor”* W. Herschel

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God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

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: O God of action and intention,
help us to consider our influence on the world.

The sword and the ploughshare are not so different---
no matter the name, a sharp blade can hurt or harvest,
and a single word can alienate or welcome.

A: Only your love can heal and make whole.

P: O God of justice and mercy,
help us to consider our relationships with your children.

The friend and the foe are not so different---
both can surprise us with a change of heart,
and we have done the same.

A: Only your love can heal and make whole.

P: O God of patience and grace,
help us to consider our limited perspective.

Success and failure are not so different---
we can neither win nor lose your love,
and we can neither give nor take salvation.

A: Only your love can heal and make whole.

P: People of God,
lay down all tools of change, that you might be changed;
lay down all judgment, that you might be forgiven;
lay down all fear of loss, that you might experience Christ's victory over death.

Psalm 51:1-12

Tone 9



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

Leading Worship Today

Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Ivan George

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

Broadcast: Andrew Weber


Building Monitor: Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

Worship Notes

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

General Announcements

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

Easter Vigil Service: Saturday March 30th at 8 p.m. at St. Matthews, Kitchener



Come for this special multi-part service that bridges the gap between Good Friday and Easter Morning! Each section will be in a different part of the building as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage to the great proclamation of the resurrection of Christ. Highlights will include the lighting of the Easter Fire, handheld candles, a baptism, and a reflection on Old Testament stories foreshadowing the salvation that is to come. Pastor Heike Toeller will be preaching and a variety of songs from old to new will be sung. The roughly two-hour-long service is jointly organized between St. Matthews, Kitchener, St. Luke's Kitchener and St. Paul's Bridgeport. Use the Office Entrance (off the parking lot) to enter.

"Like the children of Israel who watched and waited through the night for the Lord of the Exodus, we too come together this night to watch and wait for the Lord of the Resurrection. We come, as Christians have come since the first century, to keep vigil and to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the one who is our host and guest at the Easter feast to come."

Alpha Course coming to St. Matthews!

Sharing your faith can be scary... but Alpha creates a space where you can simply invite a friend to explore their questions over some food, a video talk, and small group discussion. The rest is up to God.



Who is this for? Non-regular churchgoers (e.g. attend church 0-3 times a year), people interested in what Jesus and faith is about. But if you're an active member you can attend if you bring a friend!

When: On Sundays 12-2 p.m., starting April 7th at 560 Queen Street South, Kitchener
Plus a **Retreat** at Crieff Hills Centre in Puslinch: Sat. June 8th 10 am - 4 pm. Lunch provided. No cost.

Register/ more information: Talk to Pastor Sebastian or pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com or 519-742-0462 x 2

All members are asked to prayerfully consider who they might invite to join the Alpha Course this Spring!

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.

Contact Information

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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!



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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