

# Lent 3

*Unbroken*  
*A living faith*

March 23, 2025

## Lent 3

### “God feels our pain and suffering”

Sunday, March 23, 2025

(\* indicates the assembly stands)

#### Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Three Interludes”</i>	D. Bédard
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 624		<i>“Jesus, Still Lead On”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 120
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Teach Me, O Lord”</i>	W. Byrd
Water Message		

#### Word

First Reading		Isaiah 55:1-9
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Let your Steadfast Love”</i>	p. 125
Sermon		
*Gospel Reading		Luke 13:1-9
*Hymn of the Day 606		<i>“Our Father, We Have Wandered”</i>

#### Healing

Introduction		
Prayers of Intercession		<b>A: hear us, O God.</b>
Laying on of Hands		
Hymns during Laying on of Hands 220, 611		

\*Blessing

\*Peace

## Meal

\*Offering Hymn 186

*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

\*Offering Prayer

\*Great Thanksgiving

p. 129

\*Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 130

\*Thanksgiving at the Table

\*Lord’s Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*)

p. 134

Lamb of God

p. 135

Communion Hymns 329, 330

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

## Sending

General Announcements

\*Blessing

\*Hymn 339

*“Christ, the Life of All the Living”*

\*Dismissal

**A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”*

G. Dyson

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**God feels our pain and suffering.** God becoming human in Jesus means God is deeply familiar with the pain and suffering of body, mind, and spirit. Jesus’s experience of loneliness, sorrow, and betrayal alongside the pain of physical violence and death reveal that God suffers with us and for us and all of God’s beloved creation. And it is in resurrection that God declares that divine love seeks to transform all that threatens to destroy that which God created.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P.:** God of all grace, ...

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**A.:** God of mercy,  
you delight in goodness and judge sin.

**Give us open and honest hearts  
to recognize the ways we have turned from you,  
from our own belovedness, and from one another.**

**We see the world through the lens of scarcity  
instead of your lens of abundance.**

**We see people as us and them  
instead of one body in you.**

**We participate in the brokenness of the world,  
caught in webs beyond individual choices of right and wrong.**

**Quiet our inner and outer strife, O God,  
and draw us into your forgiveness and wholeness.**

**Through your divine love,  
transform all that threatens to destroy  
the good that you have created.**

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### **Leading Worship Today**

**Minister:** Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** Linda McLellan

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Communion Server:** Jeanette Harrop

**Choral Scholars:** Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen.

**Solo:** Hannah Swiderski

**Broadcast:** Jason Smolak

**Building Monitor:** Don Robins (519-502-2099)

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## Worship Notes

**In our prayers** Kevin, Betty, George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen and John.

**Rite of Healing/ Anointing/ Laying on of Hands:** During today's worship service, an option will be offered for the congregation to participate in a rite of healing and anointing. "The order for healing is an expression in worship of the church's ministry of healing. Here all who would sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may join in prayer for others and themselves. Here each person may come to receive a word of blessing and prayer. Here each one may also receive a physical gesture of healing; the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given to us in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world." –excerpt from Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 276.

**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.

**World Water Day** is observed by the United Nations on March 22, and the Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation and Justice invites us to acknowledge the day by making a donation to Grassy Narrows First Nation, who have been suffering from mercury dumped into the English-Wabigoon River for over 60 years. Your donation could be \$22, \$2.22, or whatever works best for you! All proceeds will be collected by the Eastern Synod until the end of April, and then donated directly to Grassy Narrows to make the most impact for our gifts. Donations should be designated to "World Water Day - Grassy Narrows Relief." Thank you for your generosity.

## 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 Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs 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.

## General Announcements

**Spiritual Discernment on the Election of a New National Bishop** - At the 2025 ELCIC National Convention, delegates will elect a new National Bishop. The ELCIC's National Church Council invites members into a discernment process leading up to the election. Further information about the discernment process is available on the ELCIC website. As of January 2025, a form is now available for individuals to complete when they are ready to formally identify someone they feel has the skills and gifts for the call to serve as national bishop. Supporting materials and the form are available on the 2025 ELCIC National Convention section of the ELCIC website. If you have questions about the process, please submit them via email to [discernment@elcic.ca](mailto:discernment@elcic.ca).



## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

Contact [info@stmattskw.com](mailto:info@stmattskw.com) today!

The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at <https://www.stmatthewscentre.ca>

The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can “follow” to get updates.



### Contact Information

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# Revive *Lent*

EQUIPPING LAY LEADERS TO BE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

**TUESDAYS 1.30 PM - 3:00 PM**

MARCH 4: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 18: TELLING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 25: WHAT IS PRAYER AND HOW DO WE PRAY?

APRIL 1: MAKING SPACE, AND PRAYING THE LECTIO  
AND VISIO DIVINA

APRIL 8: PRAYING THROUGH THE HURT

APRIL 16: DEATH AND DYING, AND PRAYING WITH  
JESUS IN THE GARDEN



# St. Matthews Lutheran Church

# Lenten Oasis

12:00 Organ Recital  
12:30 Soup Lunch  
Admission: Pay-what-you-can

March 12:  
David Hall  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 19:  
Bradley Moggach  
St. Peter's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 26:  
Angus Sinclair  
St. John the Evangelist Anglican, Kitchener

April 2:  
Kathleen King Martin  
First United, Waterloo

April 9:  
Mark Himmelman  
Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo

[www.stmattskw.com](http://www.stmattskw.com)  
519-742-0462

TAKE A *breath*

# 2025 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

2 UNITED CHURCHES & 2 LUTHERAN CHURCHES + 1 ANGLICAN PRIEST

## First United Waterloo



Worship 7:00 pm

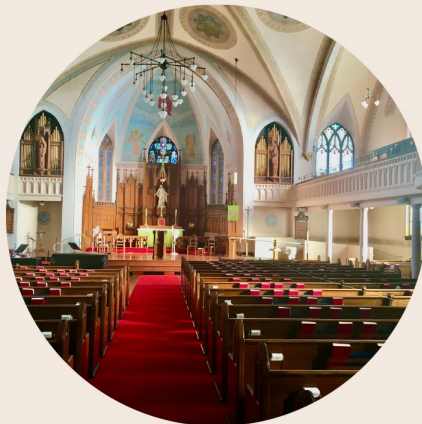
TUES  
MARCH  
**25**

Presider: Rev. Hoemun Lee

Preacher: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 16 WILLIAM ST W, WATERLOO

## St. Matthews Lutheran



Soup Supper 5:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

WED  
APRIL  
**2**

Presiders: Rev. Brenda Torrie

Rev. Carey. Meadows-Helmer

Preacher: Rev. Mario Hryniewicz

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH , 54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT



# Holy Week



## Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 am

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



## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17

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

*Gather to commemorate the Last Supper and the Footwashing.*



## Good Friday

Friday, April 18 at 9:30 am

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



## Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20 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**

**54 BENTON STREET**

**KITCHENER**

**N2G 3H2**

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