



Jesus said to her, **“I am
the resurrection
and the life.”**

-John 11:25

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 3

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † office@stmatthewmedina.org

www.stmatthewmedina.org

St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us
in the bread and the wine.

=====

"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.

"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Confession and Forgiveness *(You may stand or kneel.)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song:

What Wondrous Love is This

Hymn 666

*Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

Hymn 157

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord

Page 142

*Gospel

John 11:1-45

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and

her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he

has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

***Hymn of the Day:**

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

Hymn 333

***Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

***Prayers of Intercession** (*You may stand or kneel.*)

P: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially Dylan, Andrew, Brittany, Sue, Becky, Arline, Adam and family, Bill, Carl, Dorothy, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color. Open our mouths to speak up and about injustices. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

Lenten Meditation (11:00)
Jay Althouse

Luther Choir

*Offertory Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Hymn 186

*Offering Prayer

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

Page 144

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 him thanks and praise.

*Proper Preface

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Page 144

*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*Invitation to Communion

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*Lamb of God

Page 146

Communion Hymns

I Am the Bread of Life
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Hymn 485
Hymn 484

*Prayer after Communion

P: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear
the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the
Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

Restore In Us, O God

Hymn 328

*Dismissal:

D: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

+++

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:		11:00 - Avri Hess
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin	11:00 - Ron Heinz
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan, Bruce Reed	11:00 - Katie, Ron, & Ella Heinz, Cindy Rickly
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Delores Ivan, Sandy Andrews	11:00 - Melody Costello, Sandy Andrews, Nancy McNeal
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video: 8:30 only	Rex Rickly	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader	

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in honor of their wedding anniversary by Alan and Delores Ivan.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of her mother, Marian Ludwig, by Pat Straub.

Prayers for Healing: Dylan, Andrew & Brittany Harr, Sue Lucht, Becky, Arline, Adam and Family, Pastor Bill Lucht, Carl Ulich, Dorothy Ulich, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Fifth Sunday in Lent, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW Setting 3* and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

We Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our supply pastor.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Blood Pressure Screenings before each service in our Parish Nurse's office.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, AT ST. MATTHEW

Lenten Meal/Gathering - 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *We still need people to set up and make soup.*

Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, AT ST. MATTHEW

Passion/Palm Sunday, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW Setting 4* and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday - April 6, Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 7, Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 9, Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast - April 9, Between services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers - Today is the last day to order Easter flowers. A member of Altar Guild will be available in the narthex, after both services to take your order. Lilies are available for \$12.50 & \$25.00. Spring flowers: tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, for \$11.00. Help to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday by ordering a flower or two.

Easter Breakfast - The Luther League will be serving breakfast between services on Easter morning. They will provide eggs, pancakes and sausage. They will be taking donations of pastries and juice. Please see the sign up chart in the narthex if you are interested in contributing to the breakfast.

Share your favorite hymns with us! Forms are located in the narthex for you to fill out. Please place completed lists in Pastor Steve's mailbox.

Looking for a reliable vehicle. If you know of a vehicle, free or for which payments can be made, please contact the office.

Passion Walk - Zion Lutheran Church is having their annual "Passion Walk" on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2, 6:15 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. It is free and no tickets required.

Progressive Dinner - Deadline to sign up for our Progressive Dinner is Sunday, April 9 (Easter). Please sign up via Sign Up Genius below or in the Narthex. You will be contacted shortly afterwards regarding where to meet, possible duties, etc.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/5080A45AFAE2CABFF2-progressive>

Block Party Planning Meeting - April 10, 6:00 p.m. A new committee is forming to make plans for our next Block Party (August 26)! If you would like to have some fun, please join us for our first planning session. Pizza will be provided. All are welcome. Please contact Jill Heck or Beth Johnson with any questions.

Spaghetti Lunch- and basket raffle to benefit Operation Homes of Medina County. Sunday, April 16, 12-3 pm, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3355 Medina Rd, Medina. Tickets can be purchased online at operationhomes.org/store/. \$12 per person, \$8 children 6 and under. Dine in or take out. For more information call 330-419-4863.

Medical Equipment Closet - Walkers/walkers with seats – at this time we have 12 walkers in stock and 3 canes with legs/quad canes, and are no longer in need of any more walker/quad cane donations at this time. *But we are in need of "like-new adjustable" **walking cane with cushioned hand grip.** If anyone has one they no longer need, and would like to donate it to the church, please bring it to the Parish Nurse office. Thank you to all who have helped this project continue throughout the years.

Children's Sermons are now available to view on YouTube. The link is:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbMSkGvyBcRUoHWduYpW8EA>

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Hearing Loop
System available.