



Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 4

“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

Please note: The 8:30 am worship service is being livestreamed and recorded onto Facebook and YouTube, and an edited copy posted onto the St. Matthew webpage. By attending this worship service, you may appear as a part of this digital recording. Thank you.

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.

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*"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.
"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.*

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

Prelude

At the Cross

C.M. Taylor

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:**

Beautiful Savior

Hymn 838

***Greeting**

A: 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**

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***Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast

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***Prayer of the Day**

C: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Helen Graf

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 99

¹ The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

² **The LORD, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.**

³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;
God is the Holy One.

⁴ **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God's footstool;
God is the Holy One.

⁶ **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call
upon your name, O LORD,
they called upon you, and you answered them,**

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

⁸ **O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

Luke 9:28-43

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with

him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor David Connor

Hymn of the Day:

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

Hymn 316

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others.
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops.
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts especially Shannon, Wyatt, Alan, Dave, Loretta, Carol, Ed, Judy, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory (8:30)

Blessed Assurance

B. Wolaver

Luther Choir (11:00)

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Bode/Larson

Offertory Response

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 884

***Offertory Prayer**

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

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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 our thanks and praise.

***Proper Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***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: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

***Lamb of God**

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Communion Hymn:

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
In the Singing*

Hymn 308
Hymn 466

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Hymn 318

***Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

J. Goss

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| LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 8:30 - 54 | 11:00 - 51 |

WORSHIP SERVANTS

THIS WEEK

Acolytes: 8:30 - Faith Taraschke
 11:00 - Brooke Haycook

Reader: 8:30 - Jen Knaggs
 11:00 - Helen Graf

Communion
Servers: 8:30 - Sandy Andrews
 Melanie Brown
 11:00 - Rebekah Knaggs
 Peg Huber

Ushers: 8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan

Sound: 8:30 - Joe Obermeier
 11:00 - Larry Mohler

Assisting Minister: Jen Knaggs

Video: Rick Sullivan

Altar Guild: Ron & Peg Huber,
 Shannon Turney

NEXT WEEK

8:30 - Kara Landes
11:00 - Addison Wierzchowski

8:30 - Helen Graf
11:00 - Fran Koenig

8:30 - Carol Elkins
 Sue Schwab
11:00 - Marcia George
 Jen Knaggs

8:30 - Bruce Reed
 Becky Malloy
11:00 - Brian Harris
 Connie Mohler

8:30 - Joe Obermeier
11:00 - Joe Obermeier

Larry Mohler

Melody Costello

From the Organ Committee:

We are officially kicking off the Organ Fund Campaign. In the Narthex, you will see the “notes” of dollars donated and our first of many opportunities for raising funds. Donations can be placed in the offering plate with a memo stating ORGAN or through online giving. Thank you for continuing to fill our church with beautiful music.

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God .

Prayers for Healing: Shannon, Wyatt, Alan Ivan, Jr., Dave Anderson, Loretta Thornton, Carol Muhlbach, Ed, Judy Weir, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, & Todd Costello.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Transfiguration of Our Lord, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion., *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

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

Adult Sunday School canceled today.

Loads of Love, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 9, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

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

Looms of Love, 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday, **March 5**. We will worship at St. Matthew at 7:00 p.m. Throughout Lent, we will meet together with UCC, Congregational and St. Paul's Episcopal on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for a study of Amy-Jill Levine's book and DVD series, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. This schedule of locations and topics is as follows:

Mar 12: *Jerusalem: Risking Reputation*, UCC, Congregational, 217 E. Liberty St.

Mar 19: *The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger*, St. Matthew

Mar 26: *Teachings: Risking Challenge*, St. Paul Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

Apr 2: *The First Dinner: Risking Rejection*, UCC, Congregational, 217 E. Liberty St.

Apr 9: *The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends*, St. Paul Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

Our St. Matthew church family is invited to celebrate Lois Davis's 90th birthday on Sunday, **March 16** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the late service for a cake & coffee reception. We hope you can join us! -Lennie Davis

Ladies of St. Matthew, grab your friends and join us for a fun-filled night just for women with ASPIRE. It will be a night full of laughter, learning, stories and music. An event you'll always remember. Aspire is faith based and part of Extreme Faith Productions. Their purpose is to inspire, encourage and remind women of God's love and purpose for their lives. The event is SATURDAY, **APRIL 12**, 6:00-9:00 in North Olmsted at the North Olmsted Friends Church. Doors open at 5:00. Ticket price is \$30 general admission OR \$25 each for groups of 10 or more. Please RSVP to Helen Graf 330-421-2403 or Joyce Davis 216-780-0965 by MARCH 16.

Would You Like to be a "Quilter Bee"? Please join Beth Johnson on Sunday afternoons during Lent, to learn how to hand-quilt (or refresh your quilting skills), as we prepare a wall hanging of a cross, prior to Easter. Our quilting session will take place in the Sunday school room near the Fellowship Hall, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. All quilting supplies will be provided. All that is needed is your eagerness to participate! Come as often as you can. Any questions? Ask Beth at (301) 501-0473. *This project is supported by a grant from Thrivent.*

LGL Samaritan Fund - Financial Needs? The St. Matthew LGL Samaritan Fund would like to help. The Fund receives 25 applications a month, but rarely has requests from St. Matthew members. When created in 2006, the donor wanted to first help St. Matthew members and that remains the priority. Information and a confidential application can be found at stmatthewmedina.org in the Community Assistance, Financial Aid section.

Are You a Thrivent Member? If so, we'd like to know. Thrivent members can receive Action Dollars worth \$250 with certain products they have. These Action Dollars can help support ministries within and outside the walls of St. Matthew. Last year, our Thrivent members were awarded \$7,500 in Action Dollars! Examples of a few projects: turkeys purchased for Feeding Medina County; clothing purchased for homeless bags; fleece blankets made for Akron Children's Hospital; hats loomed for adults, children and infants; recycling bins for the church. Please see Melody Costello or Pastor Steve if you are a Thrivent member able to help with various projects.

Looms of Love meets the **second and fourth Sundays** each month at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

Men's Breakfast meets the **third Monday** of the month at 8:00 a.m. at Yours Truly restaurant.

Bible & Brews meets **each Thursday** at 7 p.m. at Forest Meadows. Watch bulletin announcements, Shout-Outs, and Facebook for occasional location changes.

Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God We Trust". Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Rev. Steven Mahaffey | Pastor |
| Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach | Director of Youth & Family Ministries |
| Cindy Piovarchy | Organist |
| LaVonne DeBois | Associate Pianist |
| Deb Musil | Office Administrator |
| Heather Rohde | Bookkeeper |
| Joyce Davis | Maintenance Supervisor |
| Brenda Disbrow | Parish Nurse |
| Nancy McNeal | Luther Choir Director |
| Rachel Knaggs | Kids of the Kingdom Director |
| Kaitlyn Taraschke | Nursery Attendant |
| Scott Schwandt | Praise Team Leader |

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.