

Pulpit Announcements – March 19, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent

Welcome to all who are here on this Fourth Sunday of Lent. Whoever you are, or wherever you find yourself on the journey, know that here at St. Matthias, All Are Welcome.

- Coming Saturday is the Diocesan conference on "Building a Culture of Life Post Roe." If you like to attend, please call the parish office. The parish will bear the cost.
- Next Sunday 1-4 pm is the Empty Bowls event for the Franklin Food Bank. All are invited to attend this family-friendly event at the DoubleTree Hotel in Somerset. For more info, go to: www.franklinfoodbank.org
- Tomorrow/Today, our NeXt Level Teens will be providing an engaging Mental Health event concerning "COPING". Please encourage all teens in grades 6th – 12th to join their peers in the School Cafeteria from 4 pm to 5:30 pm.
- St. Matthias School HSA is organizing its first Blood Drive. If you can register, you will help them in their effort. See the school website for more info.
- You may see candy sales in the church vestibule after all the Masses. Organized by the St. Matthias National Junior Honor Society and the St. Martin de Porres Society, this will benefit the Center for Great Expectations here in Somerset.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation next two Saturdays will begin half an hour early. Msgr. Brennan and Fr. Abraham will be available for Confessions from 3 pm onwards. Please use this early opportunity for Lenten Confessions.

Today is 'Rejoice' Sunday or 'Laetare' Sunday. The Church invites us to enter into joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery. Resurrection is the miracle of miracles. Our Lenten journey is not a burden or a penance but a happy journey to meet the Risen Lord. May today's gospel about the blind man help us to grow more and more from darkness into the light of Christ.

Music for Our Assembly

March 19, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent – Cycle A

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

Gathering Song – In These Days of Lenten Journey

**In these days of Lenten journey
we have seen and we have heard
the call to sow justice
in the lives of those we serve.**

3. We open our ears to the weary
and hear the cry of the poor.
To the voices that echo the song of despair,
we will show our compassion and care.

4. We call on the Spirit of Justice
and pray for the righteousness' sake.
We will sing for the freedom of all the oppressed;
we will loosen the bonds of distress.

Prayer of the Faithful

4th Sunday of Lent – Cycle A

March 19, 2023

Our response is: “Lord, in Your compassion, hear our prayer”

1. For Pope Francis and all church leaders.....Help your shepherds to light the way to your kingdom for all people, we pray to the Lord.
2. For world, national and local leaders...May they listen to others with respect and mutual understanding and be instruments of justice and peace, we pray to the Lord.
3. For this faith community of St. Matthias...especially for our children preparing for Holy Communion, and for the Elect and Candidates that they may be filled with Your life-giving Spirit as they prepare themselves for the sacraments of Initiation, and for the success of our parish fundraising campaign, we pray to the Lord.
4. For all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.....May they place their trust in the Lord as their refuge and strength, we pray to the Lord.
5. For those who have died.....May they enjoy the rewards of eternal life, we pray . . .
6. For the intentions we hold in our hearts... we pray to the Lord.

Presider announces the Mass intention and concludes with the 60th Anniversary Prayer.

Preparation Hymn - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Text: Ephesians 5:8-10, Revelation 21:23, John 12:46, 1 John 1:5, Hebrews 12:1; Kathleen Thomerson, b.1934, © 1970, 1975, Celebration

Communion Hymn – Shepherd Me O God

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.
3. Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.
4. You have set me a banquet of love in the face of
hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.
5. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days
of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

Text: Psalm 23; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Closing Hymn - Amazing Grace NEW BRITAIN

1. Amazing grace!

How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed!

3. The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

Text: CM; verses 1–4, John Newton, 1725–1807; verse 5, anon., fr. A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790.

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Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.