

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP  
AND PREACHING SERIES

March 16, 2016 - 11:30 am & 7:00 pm



## Music for Meditation

## Pastoral Greeting

Hymn of Worship *Drawn to the Cross*

LSB 560

## Invocation and Opening Versicles

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P O LORD, open my lips,

**C and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C make haste to help me, O LORD.**

P Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

## Kyrie (*spoken*)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.* O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness  
and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that  
following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the  
glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Canticle** *Let My Prayer* (sung)

(Music: LSB 245 - 247)

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to You.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.  
Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers.  
But my eyes are turned to You, O God;  
in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Psalm 102:1—12** (*spoken responsively by verse*)

Pew Bible, pg. 618

**Lenten Verse** *Return to the Lord* (sung)

(Music: LSB 157)

Return to the Lord, your God,  
for He is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.

**Passion Reading: Matthew 27:27—54**

Pew Bible, pg. 1015

**Hymn of the Day** *Glory Be to Jesus* (vss. 1 - 3, and 6)

LSB 433

**Sermon**

PASTOR MATTHIS  
Text: Matthew 27:52-53

# The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence;  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

P Lord, surely You desire truth in the inner parts.

**C Teach us wisdom in the inmost place.**

P Wash us daily in forgiveness,

**C And we will be whiter than snow.**

P Bless our church as we proclaim through our words and lives the message of salvation in Jesus.

**C Bless our homes, families, coworkers, and friends by giving us Your spirit of forgiveness.**

P For all who are in any need, adversity, or sickness (*especially ...*). May the Lord, who knows our needs before we even ask Him, provide mercy, peace, comfort, and healing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### OFFERING (7:00 pm)

### Offertory Prayer

P *Let us pray,*

**C Heavenly Father, receive these gifts, symbols of the time, abilities, and resources we place at Your disposal in thanks for Your eternal grace, mercy, and peace. Receive them for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The 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.**

## Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

**Benediction Hymn**    *Rock of Ages*

LSB 761



Pastor Chris Matthis has been pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church since 2011. He grew up in suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his B.A. from Concordia University Wisconsin and the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. During his academic career, he studied theatre arts, literature, languages (Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, Latin), and theology. Before coming to Epiphany, Pastor Chris served as the sole pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Englewood, Colorado.

Pastor Chris and his wife Lisa have two sons. Lisa has a professional background in education and children's ministry. In addition to being a husband, father, and minister, Pastor Chris is a writer. His articles, essays, children's messages, and sermons have appeared in several publications, including *The Cresset*, *The Lutheran Witness*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, and *RELEVANTMagazine.com*. He has also been a featured radio guest on St. Louis AM 850 KFUD.

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

The Rev. Chris Matthis: Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Stephen R. Pruitt, Minister of Music  
Gwen Geisler, organ (7:00 pm)