

# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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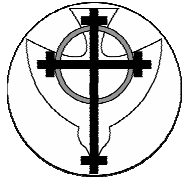
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# St. Matthias, Apostle

Oculi - The Third Sunday in Lent

24 February Anno ✝ Domini 2008

## Welcome

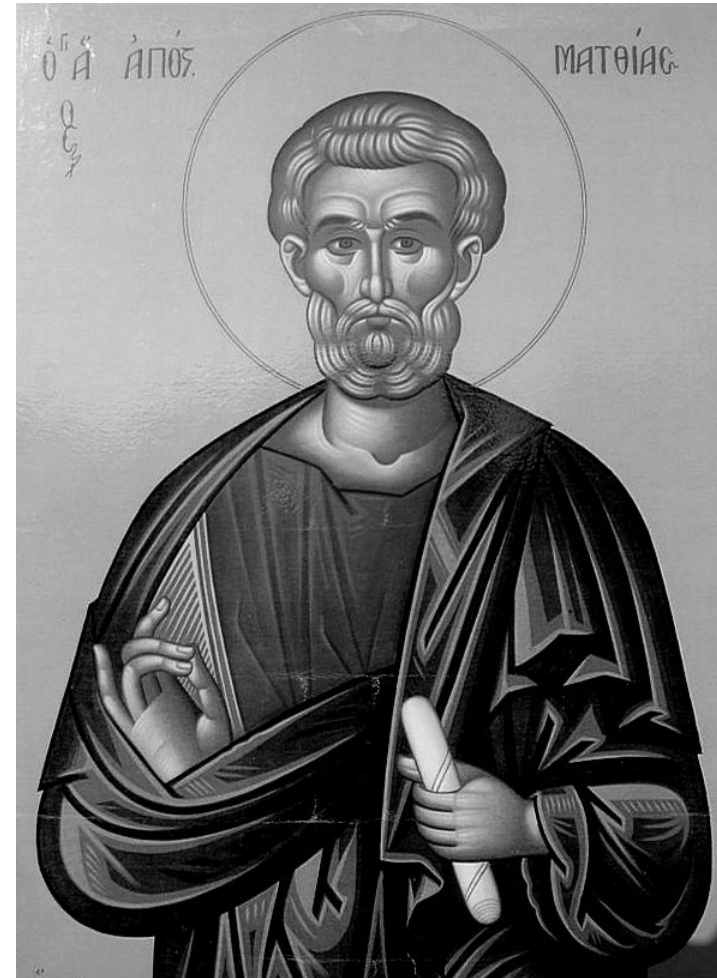
Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the nave. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

## Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



*"And they prayed and said, 'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place. And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.'" (Acts 1:24-26)*

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## LSB DIVINE SERVICE 1, PAGE 151

### The Service of Preparation

*(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)*

#### Preparatory Prayers

*Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.*

*O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.*

#### The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

*(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)*

**The Processional Hymn:** 517 “By All Your Saints in Warfare” (1, 13, 3)

**The Confession and Absolution** (p. 151)

# About St. Matthias

Today we celebrate the Feast of the holy Apostle, St. Matthias. Though little is said of him in the Sacred Scriptures beyond his election by the apostles to fill up the number of the 12 left by Judas' death, the tradition of the Church teaches us that he labored as a missionary in Ethiopia, and also laid down his life in witness to Christ's victory over death. One account says that St. Matthias was slain by cannibals in Ethiopia; another tradition claims that he was stoned and then beheaded by Jews in Jerusalem. This account lends itself to his customary symbol in religious art: The sword from his beheading is superimposed over a book or scroll representing Holy Scripture (see symbol on first page of bulletin).

His day is observed on August 9th by the Eastern Rite, on May 14 in recent times by Rome, and on this day by the Lutherans, Episcopalians and Western Rite Orthodox - the traditional date of his commemoration in the Western Church.

### On Remembering the Saints

*“Our churches teach that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith and good works according to our calling” (Augsburg Confession XXI).*

The Lutheran reformers understood that there was great benefit in remembering the saints whom God has given to His Church. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (Article 21) gives three reasons for such honor. First, we thank God for giving faithful servants to His Church. Second, through such remembrance our faith is strengthened as we see the mercy that God extended to His saints of old. Third, these saints are examples by which we may imitate both their faith and their holy living according to our calling in life. (*Lutheran Service Book, p. xii*)

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).*

Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

### Distribution Hymns

618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”  
645 “Built on the Rock”  
684 “Come unto Me, Ye Weary”  
602 “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”

**The Post-Communion Cantic:** Nunc Dimittis (p. 165)

**The Post-Communion Collect** (p. 166)

**The Benediction** (p. 166)

**The Recessional Hymn:** 644 “The Church’s One Foundation”

**The Postlude**

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## The Service of the Word

### The Introit

*Ps. 89:1, 5, 15-16; antiphon: Ps. 119:46*



I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]\*  
and shall not be | put to shame.

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, for- | ever;\***  
**with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all**  
**gener- | ations.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O Lord,\*  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

**Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,\***  
**who walk, O Lord, in the light | of your face,**

who exult in your name | all the day\*  
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]\*  
and shall not be | put to shame.

**The Kyrie** (pp. 152-153)

**The Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis** (p. 154)

**The Salutation and Collect of the Day** (p. 156)

Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**The Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 66:1-2*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? <sup>2</sup>All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

## **The Gradual**

*Eph. 4:8b, 11, 12b; 2:19a, c*

When he ascended on high he led a host of | captives,\*  
and he gave | gifts to men.

**He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors  
and | teachers,\*  
for building up the bod- | y of Christ.**

So then you are no longer strangers and | aliens,\*  
but members of the house- | hold of God.

## **The Second Reading**

*Acts 1:15-26*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>18</sup>(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’”

<sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**The Lenten Verse** (p. 157)

## **The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 11:25-30*

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one

knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**The Hymn of the Day:** 831 “‘How Shall They Hear,’ Who Have Not Heard”

**The Sermon:** “St. Matthias: The Forgotten Man” (Acts 1:15-26; Matt. 11:25-30)

**The Nicene Creed** (p. 158)

**The Prayer of the Church** (p. 159)

**☐** Lord, in Your mercy;

**☑** **hear our prayer.**

**The Offering** is gathered for the Lord’s work (p. 159)

**The Offertory** (pp. 159-160)

## **The Service of the Sacrament**

*(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)*

**The Preface and Proper Preface** (pp. 160-161)

**The Sanctus** (p. 161)

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving** (p. 161)

**The Words of Our Lord** (p. 162)

**The Proclamation of Christ** (p. 162)

**The Lord’s Prayer** (pp. 162-163)

**The Pax Domini** (p. 163)

**The Agnus Dei** (P. 163)

***Communicants are invited to pray the following:***

***Before receiving the Sacrament:***

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

***Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:***

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy*