



St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube
February 21, 2021

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

ACTIVE

CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

IN

OUTREACH

&

NURTURE



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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FB page: [St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton](https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewLutheran-Mapleton)

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First Sunday in Lent
21 February 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
1 Kings 3:4-15

Sermon Title: Humble Yourself Before God

Sermon Text: 1 Kings 3:4-15

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, and we started our Lenten Sermon Series titled “Submitting to God in prayer.” Every Wednesday and every Sunday during this Lenten season, we’re going to look at what the Bible says about “Submitting to God in prayer.”

Today we’re going to talk about “Humbling Yourself Before God.” Humbling yourself might be difficult, but it is what God asks of every one of us. When we humble ourselves before God, then we acknowledge that God is in control of all things and that God truly knows what is best for every aspect of our lives.

Our reading for today is from First Kings chapter three. In this chapter, Solomon had just been crowned king of Israel and he submitting himself to God in prayer to find out how he should lead as the king. *“Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.” (1 Kings 3:1-4)*

Our reading for today sets the stage for us. Solomon, son of King David, has just been crowned king over Israel. King Solomon is very green, and he doesn’t really know what to do. Our reading tells us that King Solomon went to Gibeon and there offered sacrifices on that altar.

Up to this point in history, the Israelites do not have a temple. King Solomon will eventually build a temple, but not right now. Instead, he simply goes to the place where his father, King David, and previous believers went to worship God. They went to Gibeon.

“⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ ⁶ And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’” (1 Kings 3:5-9)

Here in First Kings chapter three, we see an example where King Solomon prays and humbles himself before God. King Solomon was submitting himself to God in prayer. King Solomon prayed and acknowledged that God was gracious and merciful to his father, King David. King Solomon then

prayed and thanked God for making him king over the people of Israel. King Solomon also prayed and asked God for help.

“⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ ⁶ And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’” (1 Kings 3:5-9)

Here King Solomon acknowledges that he is young and green, and he needs God’s guidance and direction in order to be a God-pleasing king over Israel. King Solomon continues praying: *“⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’”*

What a prayer from a new, young king! Talk about humble. King Solomon was not perfect, but he knew that in order to be a God-pleasing king, he needed to get direction from God. And that’s what he did. King Solomon prayed: *“⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’”*

Have you ever come to God in prayer, asking him with a sincere, humble heart how to do something? That’s what it means to submit to God in prayer. We come to God, and acknowledge that God truly knows what is best for our lives. Then we pray and ask God to teach us—to help us—to do the work that needs to be done.

In addition, pray and ask God to help you want to do what God wants you to do. Pray and ask God to help you have a willing spirit to say what needs to be said. Pray and ask God to create a hunger and thirst for his Word in you so you’ll want to know him more.

So, King Solomon prays and asks God: *“⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’”* This is what it means to humble yourself before God. This is what it means to submit to God in prayer—acknowledging that God’s ways are the best ways.

After King Solomon finished praying, this is how God answered him: *“¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.’ ¹⁵ And Solomon*

awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.” (1 Kings 3:10-15)

Because King Solomon came to God in prayer—he submitted to God in prayer—and he humbled himself before God—God blessed him with more than he asked. Now, this doesn’t mean that when you pray with a humble heart—when you submit to God in prayer—that God will give you whatever you ask for. God knows what we need before we even ask in prayer. Since God knows what we need before we ask, God will answer our prayers according to his will and desire for our lives.

King Solomon came before God with a humble heart. King Solomon submitted himself to God in prayer. He asked God to help him lead the people of Israel. Then, Scripture says that as a result of King Solomon’s prayer, God granted him more than he asked for.

“¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.’” (1 Kings 3:10-14)

Now, sometimes God will give you something that you didn’t ask for, because God knows that you will use that blessing for God. Of course, sometimes God withholds a blessing, because he knows that if we receive a specific blessing, we might use it for selfish reasons only—even when that blessing was intended to bless others.

The point is that God honors a humble heart. God is happy when you come to him with a humble heart. God is pleased when you submit to him in prayer. When you know what to do—pray. This is what James tells us: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5)*

Of course, if you come to God with a boastful attitude—thinking that God has to do what you pray about simply because you think that you’re hot stuff—God does not honor that attitude. That is far from a humble heart. That is NOT submitting to God in prayer.

When you submit to God in prayer then you acknowledge that God’s ways and ideas are the best ideas and those are the ways and ideas we should follow. James also encourages us to *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10)*

This is what King Solomon did. He humbled himself before the Lord, and then God exalted him. King Solomon prayed for wisdom and guidance to lead the people Israel as their king, and God granted him that wisdom and guidance. God gave us his Word so that we can know what God wants us to do—what God desires from our hearts and minds—what God’s hopes are for us. Amen.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.



The Forty-Day Lenten Bible Reading Plan

Feb. 17 —March 27, 2021



Forty-Day Lenten Bible Reading Plan Feb. 17--March 27, 2021	
DAY	TOPIC
1	Genesis 1-2
2	Genesis 3
3	Gen. 15; 17:15-27
4	Gen. 21:1-7, 22
5	Exodus 3-4
6	Exodus 20
7	Joshua 1
8	1 Samuel 16-17
9	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9
10	1 Kings 18
11	2 Kings 25
12	Daniel 2-3
13	Ezra 3
14	Isaiah 9, 53 & 61
15	Luke 1-2
16	John 1:1-18
17	Matthew 4:14-44
18	Matthew 5-6
19	John 3
20	John 5
21	John 11
22	John 15
23	John 17
24	Matthew 26-27
25	John 20

Forty-Day Lenten Bible Reading Plan Feb. 17--March 27, 2021	
DAY	TOPIC
26	Luke 24
27	Acts 2
28	Acts 9
29	Acts 16
30	Acts 26
31	Romans 3
32	Romans 7-8
33	1 Corinthians 13
34	1 Corinthians 15
35	Galatians 5
36	Ephesians 6
37	Phil. 1:18-2:18
38	Col. 3:1-17
39	James 1
40	Rev. 21-22

Lent is a season in the church year in which we take 40 days to prepare for the life, suffering, death AND resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus

One way to prepare for Holy Week and finally Easter / Resurrection Sunday is to fast from one meal or for a whole day. You can then spend that time of fasting by praying and reading your Bible.

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son. Color's Purpose However, color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners, traditionally employed each Sunday, must be seen as more than an attempt to decorate, or give accent to the chancel. That is, no doubt, the view of some. It's true; interior design and decoration are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings "pretty." Furthermore, when altar paraments are used year after year without much attention given to their message, as well as their care, the pastor, along with his faithful altar guild would do well to throw away the key to the sacristy and refrain from using those altar cloth "decorations." Frequent instruction about the church year and its corresponding colors must go hand in hand with its weekly use

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshipping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received. Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Symbolism of Colors It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners is an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the "Bg-BgsPwr" color scheme rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshipping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

Purple

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent and, still in many parishes, during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shell fish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

Douglas K. Escue—pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Originally published in *Lutheran Worship Notes*, Issue 29, 1994.

Black

Black is seen very seldom during the year. The calendar calls for its use only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that this sober color gives. Black is the absence of light. Good Friday, or Black Friday in combination with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption. Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

When it snows and church is canceled due to unfavorable conditions, we will publish it on St. Matthews Facebook page, KTIV channel 4, on NBC and on CBS on St. Matthews web page, everyone that has e-mail will receive an e-mail, if you want to be texted, you will have to give the office your cell phone number, if you preferred to be called let the office know your phone number (landline, or cell phone), you may call the church office, but please do not tell us on Sunday morning, this is our time to worship also. Please call the church office with this information or slip a note under our door, so we do not forget. Thank you.

A Big Thank you: In an attempt to not miss anyone, St. Matthews would like to thank everyone that has helped with the snow removal so far. Whether you scooped it yourself, or hired someone to do it, it is very much appreciated. You all will be reward in the end by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kohen Eugene Wunschel is being Baptized today. His Mother and Father are Larry and Maggie Wunschel. The family resides at 670 SE Cardinal Lane, Waukee, IA 50262. Please welcome Kohen and his family into our church family. He has been made a Child of the One True King! God's Blessings to this family from St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Faith Step: Ask Jesus to show you someone who needs a touch of His love.

<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
Before going to hospital	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Private communion	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Death in the family	

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Name	Baptism
Joan Chandler	Feb 13, 1956
Brett Davis	Feb 18, 1979
Florice Dose	Feb 03, 1935
Kevin Goslar	Feb 13, 1972
Marshall Goslar	Feb 25, 1973
Mary Greiner	Feb 23, 1958
Duane Hamann	Feb 11, 1964
Bruce Jacobson	Feb 03, 1949
Scott Jacobson	Feb 16, 1975
Gene Kaderabek	Feb 03, 1963
Joyce Kruse	Feb 10, 1935
Emma Pithan	Feb 15, 2009
Sheryl Schelm	Feb 22, 1961
Jeffrey Scott	Feb 09, 1969
Ernest Witzel	Feb 05, 1937



BIRTHDAYS

We are listing
Baptismal birthdays
to remember and
celebrate the day we were
adopted into the family of

Montana Brodersen	Feb 26, 2004
Brayden Brodersen	Feb 15, 2018
Hadley Bruhn	Feb 11, 2018
Cooper Bruhn	Feb 11, 2013
Hunter Goslar	Feb 26, 2016
Bradley Goslar	Feb 18, 1998
Curtis Hesse	Feb 07, 1962
Bruce Jacobsen	Feb 03, 1949
Dennis Jahn	Feb 12, 1947
Pam Kovarna	Feb 17, 1951
Susan Kruse	Feb 09, 1957
Christina LaBoube	Feb 17, 1981
Taya Ohlmeier	Feb 16, 2009
Mindi Ohlmeier	Feb 10, 1985
Marley Scott	Feb 25, 2008
Zakary Scott	Feb 04, 2001
Megan Weber	Feb 23, 1991

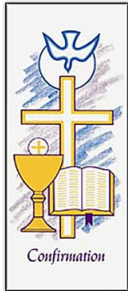
**God's Blessings 80 +yr.
Birthdays**

Mavis Skow	Feb. 08 1941 80
Dick Thoreson	Feb 13, 1940 81



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY God's Blessings

Zachery and Anna Goslar	Feb 24, 2015	6 yrs.
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First Name	Last Name	Age	Confirmation
Melvin	Schrader	94	May 12, 1940
Phyllis	Fick	92	Apr. 27, 1941
Freda	Means	93	May 27, 1942
Deloris	Livermore	91	Apr. 25, 1943
Ferne	Jacobson	90	Apr. 05, 1944
George	Koithan	88	May 20, 1945
Ruth	Bruhn	88	Apr. 21, 1946
John	Fick	88	May 19, 1946

*They Stood
firm in their
faith 75 yrs.
and
counting*

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
MAIL IN OFFERINGS 02-16-21	\$1,225.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE 02-14-21	NA
SUNDAY COMMUNED 02-14-21	NA
Children in Church 02-14-21	NA
VISITORS 02-14-21	NA
BIBLE CLASS 02-14-21	NA
SUNDAY SCHOOL 02-14-21	NA

	Week of Schedule 02-22 to 02-28
Mon (22)	Pastor's Family Day
Wed (24)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm Helping Hands, at 1:00 to 4 pm Lenten Service 7 pm
Thur (25)	Lenten Hymn & Prayer Service at 4 pm
Sun (28)	2nd Sunday in Lent Church Services 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am



Please continue to pray for our church leaders.
*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." **Romans 12:12***

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

PRAYER WARRIORS— The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call **Alice Miller** phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek
 Lavonne Witzel

Carol Dose
 Myrna Gosch

Selma Schrader
 Alan Bruhn

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Tammy Jean Bramley**, mother of Sam Kelm

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Triston Twedt (great-grandson of Alice and the late Keith Miller) serving with the Army @ Ft. Lewis, WA

Ryan Trucke (son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson) serving with U.S. Air Force @ FE Warren AFB in Wyoming.

Jackie Cardwell (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen) serving U.S. Airforce @ Shepard Air Force Base, Burkburnett TX

Dirk Radke (great grandson of Fern and the late Bob Jacobson serving in the Navy

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934

Main Street Apartments
 516 Main Street Apt 2
 Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932

1726 Marcella Heights
 Carroll, IA 51040

****Delores Boysen** 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939

3903 S.W. Hollowbrook St.
 Bentonville, AR 72712

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933
 Ring Street
 Mapleton IA 51034

** indicates a new address

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928

Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living
 404 1st St.
 Battle Creek, IA 51006

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934

Sunrise Ave.
 Maple Heights Nursing Home

Myrna Gosch 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941

Pleasant View Care Center
 200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108
 Whiting, IA 51063

Those on our prayer list:

Nazaria Kaderabek
 310 S. 6th St.
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Selma Schrader
 21 Ohm Drive
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Sheri Heilman
 (Sue Oberg's sister)
 1721 Lincoln Street
 Great Bend, KS 67530

Tammy Bramley
 42715 210th St.
 Ute, IA 51060

Lavonne Witzel
 36252 Co. Hwy E 34
 Castana, IA 51010

Alan Bruhn
 14535 Walnut Ave
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentle-
 ness, Kindness, Self-Control, Good-
 ness, and Faithfulness.
 You will be rewarded*


God
 is watching
 over you.
 I know because
 I asked
 Him to



St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY

READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am every Sunday at the church. Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton—Our services at 9:30 am every Sunday website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org—Our services posted weekly **Mission Central...** www.missioncentral.us **Lutheran Family Service:** www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji—www.campokoboji.org “**THY STRONG WORD**” is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) “**THE LUTHERAN HOUR**” can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN -FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page “**THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR**” airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—KAYL 101.5 FM **Lutheran Family Services:** www.lofsiowa.org **MainStreet Living**— is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.


 Dear Lord, Thank You Jesus for being our true friend always. You proved your love and friendship to us by sacrificing your life for us. Assure us that we can always come to You with our hurts. In your precious name, Amen