



The Gospel of Matthew is the fourth Lenten study of the Gospels at St. John's. This year we will be reading together the Gospel that comes first in the bible. Each year I discover something new in the Gospel reading between Ash Wednesday and Easter. I hope you will join me in setting aside some time each day to take up the discipline of reading the Gospel of Matthew from beginning to end.

During 2017, there will be two week opportunities to gather to explore the Gospel of Matthew together -- in Adult Sunday School following worship for five weeks beginning on March 5, and in Wednesday morning bible study for five weeks beginning March 8. Most of us find being part of a group reading together enhances our Lenten journey. Do not be afraid to gather a few friends or neighbors, or others folks in your household and read the Gospel of Matthew together.

As we prepare to read the Gospel of Matthew a few items for your consideration. The Gospel of Matthew concludes with the risen Jesus Christ saying to disciples, "*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.*" (28:19-20) The end of Matthew sends us back to beginning where the ministry of Jesus begins in the water of baptism. For disciples the end of the Gospel of Matthew is an invitation to return to the beginning and accompany newcomers to the waters of baptism. What does this ending to the Gospel invite us to do in our own lives?

The second note on baptism is notice what happens to Jesus. After Jesus is baptized in Matthew 3, then comes the time of Jesus in the wilderness facing temptation in chapter 4. We do well to consider that people who are baptized will face times of wilderness wandering and temptation in their lives. Jesus did after all. Like our forbears in faith we make the journey through the wilderness and temptation together as God's people.

As you read through the Gospel of Matthew two questions may come to mind. The first is Martin Luther's question in the Small Catechism, what does this mean? The second is what is God speaking to you in your journey as a disciple at this moment of your life?

May the Spirit bless you richly as you read through the Gospel of Matthew and sustain you to live out your faith in word and deed.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Travis Kern

March 1 Matthew Chapter 1	March 20 Matthew 13:36-58
March 2 Matthew Chapter 2	March 21 Matthew Chapter 14
March 3 Matthew Chapter 3	March 22 Matthew Chapter 15
March 4 Matthew Chapter 4	March 23 Matthew Chapter 16
Sunday, March 5 Worship 10:00am	March 24 Matthew Chapter 17
March 6 Matthew 5:1-20	March 25 Matthew Chapter 18
March 7 Matthew 5:21-48	Sunday, March 26 Worship 10:00am
March 8 Matthew Chapter 6	March 27 Matthew Chapter 19
March 9 Matthew Chapter 7	March 28 Matthew Chapter 20
March 10 Matthew Chapter 8	March 29 Matthew 21:1-22
March 11 Matthew 9:1-34	March 30 Matthew 21:23-46
Sunday, March 12 Worship 10:00am	March 31 Matthew 22:1-22
March 13 Matthew 9:35-10:23	April 1 Matthew 22:23-46
March 14 Matthew 10:24-41	Sunday, April 2 Worship 10:00am
March 15 Matthew Chapter 11	April 3 Matthew Chapter 23
March 16 Matthew 12:1-21	April 4 Matthew Chapter 24
March 17 Matthew 12:22-50	April 5 Matthew Chapter 25
March 18 Matthew 13:1-35	April 6 Matthew Chapter 28
Sunday, March 19 Worship 10:00am	April 7 Matthew Chapter 27
	April 8 Matthew Chapter 28

