

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



A word from Max

ASH WEDNESDAY—6:00 p.m. tonight—if you are reading this the day it arrives—begins “the journey to the cross.”

Why come to worship tonight?

Lent is about giving our time and attention to Jesus Christ in a sacrificial way for 40 days. Is it convenient to come to church on a Wednesday evening? No. Of course not.

That’s the point.

That’s where the sacrifice comes in.

Brief message tonight: “No Pain, No Gain.”

We will receive the ashes of repentance and kneel at the altar for prayer.

Our journey in the footsteps of Jesus, as he moves toward the cross, begins.

Ash Wednesday—6:00 p.m.

This Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mary was scheduled to preach, but her 100-year-old uncle passed away, and she will be traveling to West Texas for the funeral. Our love goes with her. She will be with us tonight for Ash Wednesday.

My sermon on Sunday will ask the question: Why doesn’t God do it the easy way?

God could make Himself known to everyone in the world in an instant.

One shout from heaven and a great light display would do it.

But God does not do that.

Why?

Sermon Sunday: Why Not the Easy Way?

The choir will begin Lent with a bit of Mozart.

Pastor’s Class

At 9:45, we will consider the most challenging experience we have discussed yet. If this happened, the world simply does not work the way we think it does.

Breakfast

It’s another “We-Bring Sunday.”

Help make it a good time of food and fellowship.

Thank you for helping.

10:30—before worship.

Prayer List

Please add Judy Reeves to our prayer list. Joe and Joe Christian Adams took John Reeves to a doctor’s appointment on Monday. While there, Judy developed a heart issue. As of Monday evening, she is at Medical City Arlington awaiting test results.

John and Judy have had more than their share lately. Please keep them in your prayers.

God bless,

Rev. Max Brennan

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See you tonight?

Sunday?

This is a beautiful season in which we center our lives on the Center of our lives.

Kids' News

Good News for Everyone

After Jesus was baptized and began teaching, He returned to His hometown of Nazareth. The people there had known Him since He was a child. They had watched Him grow up. On the Sabbath, He went into the synagogue, as He always did, and stood up to read.

He was handed the scroll of the prophet Book of Isaiah. Jesus unrolled the scroll and read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor... release to the captives... recovery of sight to the blind.” Then He sat down. Everyone was watching Him closely.

Jesus said, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” He was saying that God’s promise was happening right then, through Him. At first, the people were amazed. But when Jesus made it clear that God’s good news was not just for them, not just for Nazareth, but for everyone, they became angry. They wanted special treatment. Jesus would not limit God’s love. The crowd grew so upset that they drove Him out of town, but Jesus walked away safely (Luke 4:16–30).



The people who knew Jesus best struggled to understand that God’s love was bigger than their town.

What We Learned

- ✓ Jesus came to bring good news to those who are hurting.
- ✓ God’s love is not limited to one group of people.
- ✓ Sometimes people resist when grace feels too wide.
- ✓ We are called to share good news with everyone.



A word from Mary

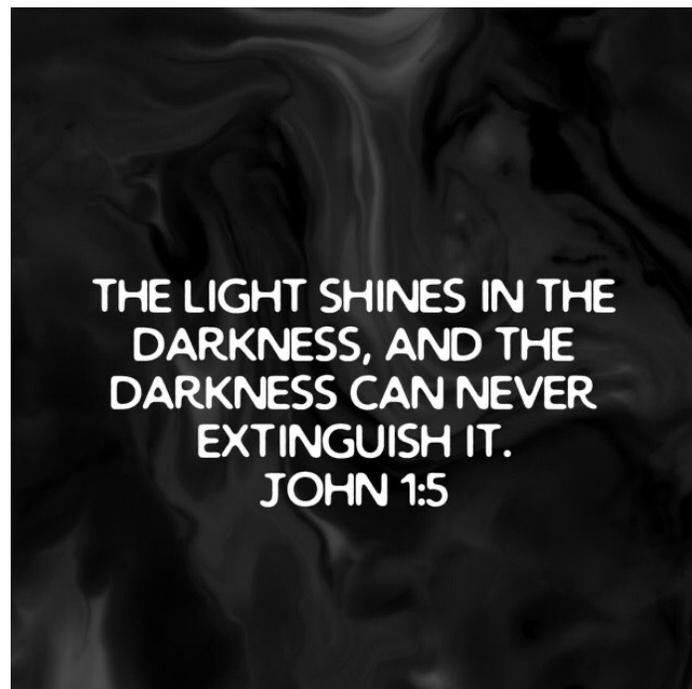
Greetings! I pray this newsletter finds you well and at peace.

I ask for your prayers this week as I travel to Lubbock on Friday for the funeral of my 100-year-old uncle, Francis “Mule” Cox. He passed peacefully late Sunday, and we will celebrate his life on Saturday morning. I am looking forward to sharing stories about this man who has been an anchor in my life and a steady source of love and acceptance. I will tell you more when I return, but I recently learned that he served in the Navy during World War II. I am grateful for a church family that lifts one another in prayer.

I am also thankful for a church family that puts action behind those prayers. Thank you to Mrs. Jo Adams for driving the Reaves family to the doctor and helping with all that went along with that visit. Please continue to pray for John and Judy Reaves as they face ongoing health concerns. I am grateful for those who prepared and delivered meals over the past two weeks. I give thanks for children who step in to support parents, and for siblings who stand beside one another during difficult seasons. I thank God every day for the men and women who care for our church building and campus, keeping it welcoming and well-maintained. God is so good to us, and God is so good through us, as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to one another.

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 18. I look forward to this time of humility and confession as we prepare our hearts for the days of Lent ahead.

My love to you all,
Mary



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