

*St. Matthew's*  
*Ev. Lutheran Church & School*

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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*Worship for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*  
*January 18 & 21, 2024*

**Opening Hymn: Today Your Mercy Calls Us**

CW 916

- 1 Today your mercy calls us  
to wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
whatever we have been,  
however long from mercy  
our hearts have turned away,  
your precious blood can wash us  
and make us clean today.
- 2 Today your gate is open,  
and all who enter in  
shall find a Father's welcome  
and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
a present joy be giv'n,  
a future grace be promised,  
a glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us,  
his Holy Spirit waits;  
his blessed angels gather  
around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
how often we have come;  
although we oft have wandered,  
it is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
what should we do without you  
when heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
to drive us to despair,  
we know one gate is open,  
one ear will hear our prayer.

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### Confession of Sins

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

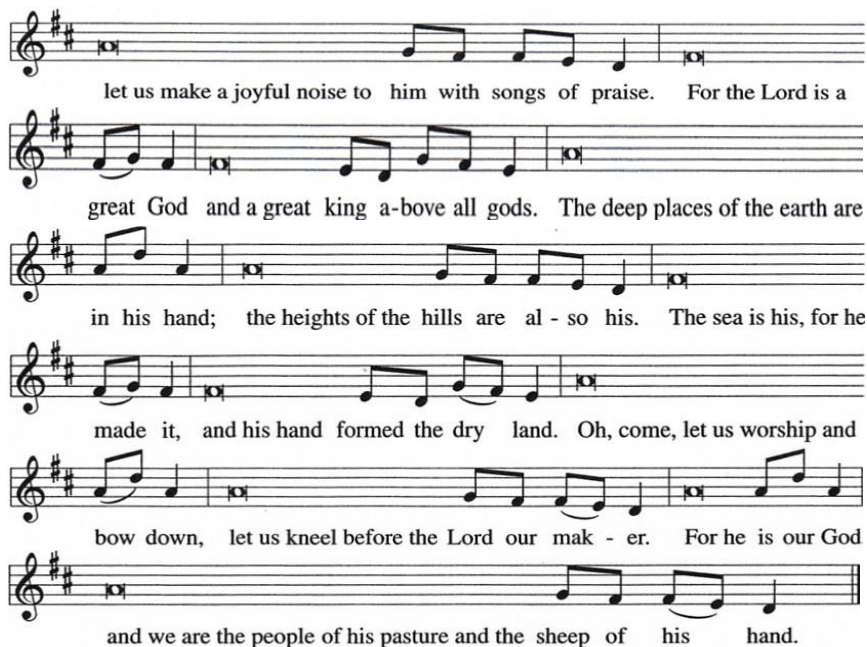
C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.

P: St. John says of our God: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." He also says: "We have one who pleads with the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." Therefore, upon this your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The glory of the Lord is revealed: let us worship him.

C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of  
our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a  
great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are  
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he  
made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and  
bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

P: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sr. Choir 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 55:6-12**

6Seek the LORD while he may be found!

**Call on him while he is near!**

7Let the wicked man abandon his way.

**Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.**

Let him turn to the LORD,

**and he will show him mercy.**

Let him turn to our God,

**because he will abundantly pardon.**

<sup>8</sup>Certainly my plans are not your plans,  
**and your ways are not my ways, declares the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
**so my ways are higher than your ways,**  
and my plans are higher than your plans.

<sup>10</sup>**Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky**  
and do not return there

**unless they first water the earth, make it give birth,**  
and cause it to sprout,  
**so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,**

<sup>11</sup>in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth  
**will not return to me empty.**

Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,  
**and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.**

<sup>12</sup>Yes, you will go out with joy,  
**and in peace you will be carried along.**

The mountains and the hills will break out in shouts of joy before  
you,

**and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.**

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets.

<sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ**      *CW 560*

**1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart;  
they tell me all is done, they bid my fear depart. (Refrain)**

**Ref To whom but you, who can alone  
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ,  
can heal my sinful soul;  
your wounds, not mine, contain  
the balm that makes me whole. (Refrain)**

**3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ,  
has borne the dreadful load  
of sins that none could bear  
but the incarnate God. (Refrain)**

**4 Your death, not mine, O Christ,  
has paid the ransom due;  
ten thousand deaths like mine  
would have been all too few. (Refrain)**

**Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2**

<sup>18</sup>And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

<sup>6:1</sup>As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

- Do Not Receive God's Grace In Vain*
- I. By destroying God's gift of grace*
  - II. By despising God's Word of grace*
  - III. By delaying in God's time of grace*

## Our Response to God's Word

5 Your righteousness, O Christ,  
alone can cover me;  
no other righteousness  
can set a sinner free.  
To whom but you, who can alone  
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

## Offering

### Prayer of the Church for Epiphany

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into the world to save us from sin and death.

**C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.

**C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness; and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

P: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

**C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to your heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**C: Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**C:** 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.

## Hymn: Not unto Us CW 582

- 1 Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;  
not unto us but to your name be praise;  
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n  
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.
- 2 Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;  
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;  
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness  
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.
- 3 O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;  
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;  
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you  
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.
- 4 Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,  
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.  
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,  
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

## Prayer

**P:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you  
want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep  
your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith,  
guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: 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 on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Amazing Grace** CW 576

**1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.**

**2 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his Word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

**3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**4 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

### **Members, Visitors & Guests—Welcome to St. Matthew's!**

Let us seize the gift of grace God offers in the Word of grace while it is the day of grace lest God's grace be offered to us in vain.

If you are visiting our service, please sign a "care card" in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Week—161 (34/127)

Bible Classes—52

Offering Last Week—\$10,173.00

Sunday School—14

**Finish the Work—\$85,237.75**

*(Meeting our 2024 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)*

*"I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands"*

*Psalms 119:60.*

## Announcements:

1. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – We have begun a study of the Minor Prophets in Bible Class. We are currently studying the book of the prophet Joel. Bible class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship area downstairs. You are invited to join us.
2. **During the month of January**, Bible class participants will have the opportunity to donate to a building project for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mrs. Pfaffenbach's brother, Pastor Nathanael Jensen, is the pastor at this congregation and they are in the process of trying to acquire land to build a new church. Money raised will be sent to this congregation to help with the expense of purchasing land. Anyone wishing for more information, please contact Sally Wellnitz.
3. **Open Forum Meeting** There will be an Open Forum meeting on Sunday, January 21 in between services in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend!
4. **Voters' Meeting & Call Meeting** Mr. Kip Jones returned the Call to teach grades 7 and 8 and be the Athletic Director. We will have the Annual Voters' Meeting **today** after the second service. We will also have a Call meeting to Call a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher/Athletic Director and a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher/Principal. Please keep St. Matthews in your prayers.
5. **Kindergarten Parents' Meeting for the 2024-2025 school year** will be held on Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30 in the kindergarten classroom. Parents of children turning 5 years old by Sept. 1st are invited to attend to receive information about kindergarten for the coming school year. If you know of someone who might be interested in receiving information about our school, please let us know.
6. **2024 Flower Chart** If you would like to supply altar flowers for a Sunday in 2024, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Thank you!
7. **Women's Bible Class** Women's Bible Class is held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are currently working on our handouts regarding Pastor Mark Paustian's books "Prepared to Answer" and "More Prepared to Answer". We hope to have the lessons

ready to print in 2024. When we aren't doing these lessons we are using a Women's Bible Study Book from NPH called "In God's Orchard- Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.

8. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet at 5:00 p.m.
9. **Finish the Work** Perhaps you have noticed that we are running regular updates for the special "Finish the Work" debt retirement/reduction offering. **To date offerings given to this special effort total over \$85,000.00!! We have received 64 special offering envelopes.** For this we thank our gracious God and his generous people here at St. Matthews. If you would still like to participate in the offering, special "Finish the Work" envelopes are still available on the counter in the narthex. Thank you again to all for your prayers and support.

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### **Assisting with Worship**

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#### **Organists:**

Meredith Moeller

#### **Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – Mark Schulz, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage, David Johnson & Jason Carlson

#### **Next Week Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield, Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt, Kyle Stade

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel

#### **CODS:**

Thursday, January 18, 6:30 p.m. – Karl Kroening

Sunday, January 21, 8:00 a.m. – Brain Hartwig

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. – Phil Fry

#### **Next Week CODS:**

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m. – Marc Augsburg

Sunday, January 28, 8:00 a.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Sunday, January 28, 10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

### **Greeters**

Sunday, January 21, 8:00 a.m. – Gerry & Sally Wellnitz

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. – Sue Balog

### **Next Week Greeters:**

Sunday, January 28, 8:00 a.m. – Ann Janke

Sunday, January 28, 10:30 a.m. – Mary Kowal

### **Church Cleaning:**

January 27, 2024 – Don Dickinson & Kevin Foster families

February 3, 2024 – Mike Fox & Phil Fry families

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## **This Week at St. Matthew's**

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### **Sunday**

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Open Forum Meeting 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Annual Voters' Meeting after 2<sup>nd</sup> Service

Call Meeting After 2<sup>nd</sup> Service

### **Wednesday**

Women's Bible Study 9:03 a.m.

Public School Confirmation 5:00 p.m.

Sr. Choir 5:45 p.m.

Kindergarten Parents Meeting 2024-2025 School Year 6:30 p.m.

### **Thursday**

Worship with Communion 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday**

Worship with Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

