



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the Sunday after New Year

January 3, 2021

Opening Hymn: #71 "The Old Year Now Has Passed Away"

**1 The old year now has passed away;
We thank you, O our God, today
That you have kept us through the year
When danger and distress were near.**

**2 We pray you, O eternal Son,
Who with the Father reigns as one,
To guard and rule your Christendom
Through all the ages yet to come.**

**3 Take not your saving Word away,
Which lights and cheers our souls each day.
Abide with us and keep us free
From error and hypocrisy.**

**4 Oh, help us to forsake all sin,
A new and holier life begin!
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless
The new year with true happiness,**

**5 Wherein as Christians we may live
Or die in peace that you can give,
To rise again when you will come
And enter your eternal home.**

6 There shall we thank you and adore
With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise your name through life and death.

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children.

C: **But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.**

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -

ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and everlasting Lord God, you never slumber nor sleep, but your eyes are always open to the manifold needs of your people. Watch over our welfare on the perilous journey we have begun as we entered this new year, shade us from the dangers that surround us, and keep us safe from harm; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Epistle: Revelation 5:1-12

And I saw a scroll in the right hand of him who sat on the throne, with writing on the front and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll by breaking its seals?" ³No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping. Look! The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶And I saw a Lamb standing in the center, near the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders. The Lamb seemed to have been slain, and he had seven horns and seven eyes (these are the seven spirits of God that have been sent into all the world). ⁷The Lamb came and took the scroll out of the right

hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸And when the Lamb took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders bowed down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and gold bowls full of incense (these are the prayers of the saints). ⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and you bought us for God with your blood
out of every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰You made them to be a kingdom and priests for our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

¹¹And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. ¹²With a loud voice they were saying:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive
power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing.

Psalm 91

Refrain



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

Psalm tone



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High*
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD,*
“He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

Refrain

You will not fear the terror of the night,*
nor the arrow that flies by day.

If you make the Most High your dwelling,*
then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you*
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,*
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him."

¹⁴Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. ¹⁷Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord ¹⁹suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child

and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod’s son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. ²³When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn: #431 (1-3) “I Walk in Danger All the Way”

**1 I walk in danger all the way;
The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey,
Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares
May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray;
I walk in danger all the way.**

**2 I pass through trials all the way,
With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day
The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity
I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay;
I pass through trials all the way.**

**3 Grim death pursues me all the way;
Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day,
And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I
In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity today.
Grim death pursues me all the way.**

Sermon Text: Psalm 121 A song for the ascents.

¹I lift up my eyes to the mountains.

Where does my help come from?

²My help comes from the LORD,

the Maker of heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot stumble.

He who watches over you will not slumber.

⁴Yes, he who watches over Israel will not slumber.

He will not sleep.

⁵The LORD watches over you.

The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶The sun will not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will watch to keep you from all harm.

He will watch over your life.

⁸The LORD will watch over your going and your coming

from now to eternity.

Lift Up Your Eyes To The Mountains

I. See the perilous road ahead

II. See your glorious LORD above

Apostles' Creed

**All: 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.

Offering (Offerings may be placed in the basket in the narthex)

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord God, we praise you for sending your Son in our flesh to fulfill the law on our behalf and suffer its curse as our substitute. We thank you that although we sin much, he is our righteousness and peace.

C: Teach us to number our days so that the blessings and distractions of this life never turn our hearts from you.

P: Eternal God, you have been our dwelling place in every generation, but our years pass quickly. As we enter this new year, prepare our hearts for your Son's return.

C: Forgive the sins of the past year – those known and those unknown – and keep us faithful to Christ our Lord in the coming year.

P: Gracious Father, calm the hearts of those who look to the future with foreboding or fear rather than with confidence and hope.

C: To those who face illness, pain, and suffering, and to those to whom death draws near, give the peace that only you can give.

P: O God, bless our nation in the new year. Give us honest work, effective education, and leaders of good character.

C: Save us from violence and discord, and bring a common purpose and harmony where there is division.

P: O Lord, in your unending mercy, grant us these things and all else that you know we need.

C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #431 (4-6) "I Walk in Danger All the Way"

4 I walk with angels all the way;

They shield me and befriend me.

All Satan's pow'r is held at bay

When heav'nly hosts attend me.

They are my sure defense;

All fear and sorrow, hence!

Unharm'd by foes, do what they may,

I walk with angels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way;
His guidance never fails me.
He takes my ev'ry fear away
When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by his footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When you farewell can gladly say
To all your sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.

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: #439 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect and feed me From day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

* * * * *

Members, Visitors & Guests – Welcome to St. Matthew’s!

As we lift up our eyes to the mountains and see the perilous journey that lies ahead of us in this new year, let us lift our eyes still higher to see and find comfort in our glorious Lord above.

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— Christmas Eve (111), Christmas Day (59)
Sunday (95) Offering Last Week—\$13,845.50

(Meeting our 2021 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$13,600.00.)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Announcements:

1. **Thank You** The Sunday School teachers and staff would like to thank the council and members of the congregation for the Christmas gifts. We are appreciative of your thoughtfulness and are thankful for the opportunity to serve at St. Matthew's!
2. **Bible Class** Sunday morning Bible class will resume today at its usual time slot between services. Bible class meets in the fellowship area downstairs. We will finish up studying 1 Peter chapter 5.
3. **Installation of our newly elected church council** will take place on January 10, 2021 in the 8:00 service. Elected for 3 year terms are Vice President – Doug McIlvain, Building & Grounds – Brandon Phillips, Financial Secretary – Tom Timmermann, and elected for a 2-year term for Outreach & Fellowship –Steve Sage. May the Savior richly bless these men as they serve Him and His Kingdom! Thank you to Rory Groomwald, Jeff Burandt, and Roger Howard who have completed their terms on the church council for their faithful service.

4. **Thanksgiving Offering** Our Thanksgiving Offering totaled \$2,835.00 and will be divided evenly between St. Matthew's Needy Family fund and WELS Christian Aid and Relief. *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's peoples but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:12*
5. **Altar Flowers** If you would like to provide flowers for the altar during the **2021** church year, please sign up on the Flower Chart which is located on the bulletin board on the ramp.
6. **Evening Guild** will have their January meeting on Monday, January 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are welcomed.
7. **2021 Offering Envelopes** – Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes in the lower hallway.
8. **Annual Report** Councilmen, organizations and anyone else wanting to be included in the 2020 Annual Report should have your information to Lori Sage by Sunday, January 10. Reports can be emailed to lsage@stmatthewsjanesville.org.
9. **Kindergarten Parents' Meeting for the 2021-2022 school year** will be held on Wednesday, January 13 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.
10. **Thank you to the women** who served on the altar guild for the month of December: Brenda Groninger, Emma Groninger, Bev Boughton, and Rachel Schmitt. Serving for the month of January will be: Resa Truppe, Karen Schulz, Hazel Connors, and Cookie Wagner.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Richard Stout, Nathan Stout, Evan Burnside

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage, Paul Johnson, Mike Hay, Jason Carlson

Church Cleaning:

January 9, 2021 – Tammy Jones & Tim Peterson families
January 16, 2021 – Warren Scheibe & John Leeder families

St. Matthew's Bible Classes

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

1 Peter, Chapter 5.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“Samson the Champion & Samson's Fall & Death”

Monday Evening Women's Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

“A Woman After God's Own Heart”

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

“Full Accessories of God”

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

“1 Peter Chapter 5”

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“Ruth's Faith”

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

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

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School Teacher's

Meeting 11:45 a.m.

Monday

School Resumes

Evening Guild 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Education Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Public School Confirmation

Class 5:00 p.m.

Financial Planning Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Worship with Lord's Supper

6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Worship with Lord's Supper
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

