



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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*Worship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany of our Lord*

*January 5, 2025*

**Opening Hymn: Peace Came to Earth** CW 330

**1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
when angels clove the sky with song and light  
and God embodied love and sheathed his might—**

**Who could but gasp: Immanuel!**

**Who could but sing: Immanuel!**

**2 And who could be the same for having held  
the infant in their arms and later felt  
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—**

**Who could but sigh: Immanuel!**

**Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

**3 You show the Father none has ever seen,  
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,  
in bread and wine you visit us again—**

**Who could but see: Immanuel!**

**Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

**4 How else could I have known you, O my God!  
How else could I have loved you, O my God!  
How else could I embrace you, O my God!**

**Who could but pray: Immanuel!**

**Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

## **Invocation**

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

**C: Amen.**

## **Confession of Sins**

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you  
in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. *(tune of CW 742)*

**♪ To God on high be glory  
and peace to all the earth,  
for God has shown his favor  
in Jesus' holy birth!  
Almighty God and Father,  
our humble thanks we bring;  
we worship you, we bless you,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 O Lamb of God exalted,  
you take all sin away;  
extend to us your mercy  
and hear us as we pray.  
With God the Holy Spirit,  
at God the Father's throne,  
you reign, O Christ, forever,  
for you are Lord alone!**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and grant us peace for all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-6**

Listen to me, you coastlands.

**Pay attention, you faraway peoples!**

The Lord called me from the womb.

**When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.**

<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.

**He hid me in the shadow of his hand.**

He made me a polished arrow.

**He concealed me in his quiver.**

<sup>3</sup>He said to me, "You are my servant Israel,

**in whom I will display my glory."**

<sup>4</sup>But I said to myself, "I have labored in vain.

**I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.**

Yet a just verdict for me rests with the Lord,

**and my reward is with my God."**

<sup>5</sup>But now the Lord,

**who formed me from the womb to be his servant,**

to turn Jacob back to him,

**so that Israel might be gathered to him,**

so that I will be honored in the eyes of the Lord,

**because my God has been my strength—**

<sup>6</sup>the Lord said:

**It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant**

to raise up only the tribes of Jacob

**and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,**

so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,

**so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.**

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Verse of the Day** (*tune of CW 742*)

♪ **I thank you, Holy Spirit! The gospel came to me.**

**My eyes once closed in blindness are opened now to see**

**That I myself was helpless to live eternally,**

**But, dying, Christ did save me, his peace now lives in me!**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:6-12**

<sup>6</sup>Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. <sup>7</sup>Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.) <sup>9</sup>But as it is written:

What no eye has seen and no ear has heard

and no human mind has conceived—

that is what God has prepared for those who love him.

<sup>10</sup>But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>Indeed, who among men knows a man's thoughts except the man's spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit.

<sup>12</sup>What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## 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: O Light of Gentile Nations *CW 497*

1 O Light of Gentile nations,  
O Savior from above,  
drawn by your Spirit's leading,  
we come with joy and love  
into your holy temple  
and wait with rev'rent mind  
as Simeon once had waited  
his God and Lord to find.

2 Dear Lord, your servants meet you  
in ev'ry holy place  
where you yourself have promised  
that we should see your face.  
Today you still allow us  
who gather round you here  
in arms of faith to hold you  
as did that aged seer.

**3 Lord, when life's troubles touch us,  
you seem to hide your face,  
and through our tears we often  
can scarcely sense your grace.  
Then be our joy and brightness,  
our cheer in pain and loss,  
our sun in darkest terror,  
the glory round our cross.**

**Sermon: Luke 2:25-32**

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Enjoy Christmas Peace Throughout The New Year*  
*I. Remember the Epiphany given by Simeon*  
*II. Rejoice at the Epiphany given to Simeon*

**Response to God's Word** *tune of CW 497*

**♪ Let us, O Lord, be faithful  
like Simeon to the end  
so that his prayer exultant  
may from our hearts ascend:  
"O Lord, now let your servant  
depart in peace, I pray,  
since I have seen my Savior  
and here beheld his day."**

**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.**

**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: It Is Well with My Soul** CW 850

**1** When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll—  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

*Refrain:* It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

**2** Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. (Refrain)

**3** My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

**4** And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

**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.**

**Closing Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing** CW 930

**1** Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.



2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
here his tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

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

Let's remember the Epiphany granted by Simeon and rejoice at the Epiphany granted to Simeon so that we may enjoy Christmas peace all through the new year.

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 – 154 (88, 66)

Offering Last Week – \$18,403.50

*(Meeting our 2024 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$15,324.00.)*

*"The Lord blesses his people with peace."*

*Psalm 29:11*

**Announcements:**

1. **Installation of our newly elected church council** will take place on today in the 8:00 service. Elected for 3 year terms are President, Jim Daley, Secretary, Zach Pfaffenbach, and Education Committee, Trevor Sanchez. May the Savior richly bless these men as they serve Him and His Kingdom! Thank you to Marc Augsburg who completed his term on the church council for his faithful service.

2. **Altar Flowers** The flowers on the altar have been given by Kris and Karl Kroening in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God's blessings and congratulations!
3. **Thank You** Pastor Janke and Ann want to thank the members of St. Matthew's for the many expressions of gratitude that were received during the past Christmas season. It is our joy and privilege to serve. May God bless all of you! *Pastor Janke and Ann.*
4. **Thank you to the members of St. Matthew** for your kind and generous Christmas gift, and for every one of the greetings we received as we celebrated our Savior's birth. We truly count it among our blessings that we are able to regularly worship together with you and to enjoy your fellowship throughout the year. *Pastor Ken and Pat Arndt*
5. **Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Matthews,** Lynn and I wish to thank you for the very generous gift we received this Christmas, it is an honor and privilege to serve our Lord and the sheep of His flock. May we all be a light in this sin darkened world with the message of the birth of our newborn King and Savior. God's richest blessings as we enter a new year! *Dale & Lynn Beutin*
6. **Preschoolers through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders** of St. Matthew's congregation and their families are welcome to join us for the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Party on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. There will be stories, activities and even a bedtime snack and each kid will get to choose a free book to take home. Kids, feel free to wear your pajamas! *Invite your friends to join us too!*
7. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class resumes today between services in the Fellowship area. We will continue studying the book of Malachi.
8. **The Women's Bible Study** The Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. All women are welcome to attend!
9. **Sunday School** Sunday School resumes this morning at 9:15 a.m. We will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.
10. **Evening Guild Meeting** The Evening Guild will meet this Monday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend.

11. **Annual Report** Councilmen, organizations and anyone else wanting to be included in the 2024 Annual Report should have your information to Lori Sage by **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**. Reports can be emailed to [lsage@stmatthewsjanesville.org](mailto:lsage@stmatthewsjanesville.org).
12. **2025 Offering Envelopes** Your 2025 offering envelopes are located in the bump out area at the end of the ramp. If you have not picked your envelopes up, please do so soon. Thank you!
13. **Forward in Christ 2025** If you'd like to receive a copy of Forward in Christ each month, please fill out the envelope located on the bulletin board in the lower hallway and return with payment to the church office. A check can be made out to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. The cost of the magazine is **\$12.00** for the year. **Checks are due by Sunday, January 12, 2025.**
14. **2024 Flower Chart** If you would like to supply altar flowers for a Sunday in 2025, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Thank you!
15. **The Ladies Guild** would like to send a gift card to support all St. Matthew's members who are away at college or in the military. Please email their address to Theresa Biele at [fbiele28@yahoo.com](mailto:fbiele28@yahoo.com) or call her at 608-751-1050. You could also contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.

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### **Assisting with Worship**

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**Organist:**

Meredith Moeller

**Ushers:**

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

**Next Week Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox, Nico Caminata

10:30 a.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

**CODS:**

Sunday, January 5, 8:00 a.m. – Kyle Stade

Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. - Zach Pfaffenbach

**Next Week CODS:**

Sunday, January 12, 8:00 a.m. – Brian Hartwig  
Sunday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. – Briton Peterson  
Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Stirmel

**Greeters**

Sunday, January 5, 8:00 a.m. – Mike & Bethann Borchardt  
Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. – Art & Linda Hilker

**Next Week Greeters**

Sunday, January 12, 8:00 a.m. – Bev Boughton  
Sunday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. – John & Joanne May

**Church Cleaning:**

January 11, 2025 – Paul Kleban & Jean Muche families  
January 18, 2025 – Richard Lehmann & Mike Lenser 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/Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.  
Installation of Council in 8:00 a.m. Service

**Monday**

Education Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Guild Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Sr. Choir 5:45 -6:45 p.m.  
Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

Worship with Communion 6:30 p.m.

**Friday**

Great Bedtime Story Pajama Party 6:00-7:15 p.m.

**Saturday**

Men's Bible Study at the Citrus Café 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday**

Worship with Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

