

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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[www.stmatthewsjanesville.org](http://www.stmatthewsjanesville.org)

*Worship for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent*

*December 17 & 20, 2020*

**Opening Hymn: #19 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"**

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
My Hope, my heart's Delight.  
O Jesus, let your word be  
A lamp to light my way,  
To show me how to please you,  
To guide me ev'ry day.

2 Love caused your incarnation;  
Love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling  
That led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race!

3 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed  
And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; he is near you,  
He's standing at the door  
Who best can help and cheer you  
And bids you weep no more.

## **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**

**4 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
A heritage in heav'n.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Old Testament: Malachi 3:13-4:3**

<sup>13</sup>Your words against me are harsh, says the LORD. You ask, "How have we spoken against you?" <sup>14</sup>You say, "Serving God is pointless. What have we gained by carefully keeping his requirements and by walking around like mourners before the LORD of Armies? <sup>15</sup>Now we will call the arrogant blessed. Even evildoers are built up. They even test God and get away with it."

<sup>16</sup>Then those who fear the LORD spoke with each other. The LORD gave them his attention and listened. A book of remembrance was written in front of him for those who fear the LORD and have regard for his name.

<sup>17</sup>They will be mine, says the LORD of Armies, on the day I make them my treasured possession. I will spare them just as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>Then you will again see the distinction between a righteous person and a wicked person, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies.

### **Verse of the Day**

**5 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,  
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.**

### **Epistle: Titus 2:11-3:7**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He gave himself for us, to

redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

<sup>15</sup>Keep telling people these things. Continue to encourage and rebuke with full authority. Let no one ignore you.

<sup>31</sup>Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready to do any good work, <sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, to be gentle, and to display every courtesy toward all people.

<sup>3</sup>For at one time we ourselves were also foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by many kinds of evil desires and pleasures, living in malice and jealousy, being hated and hating one another.

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us-not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

P: This is the word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **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.**

Hymn: "Oh, Love, How Deep" (*sung to tune of CW, #27*)

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 He sent no angel to our race,  
Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame,  
And to this world himself he came.

3 For us baptized, for us he bore  
His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptation sharp he knew,  
For us the tempter overthrew.

4 For us he prayed, for us he taught;  
For us his daily works he wrought,  
By words and signs and actions thus  
Still seeking not himself but us.

5 For us, by wickedness betrayed,  
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death;  
For us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again,  
For us he went on high to reign;  
For us he sent his Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
For love so deep, so high, so broad,  
The Trinity whom we adore  
Forever and forevermore.

**Sermon Text:** Luke 1:67; 76-79

<sup>67</sup>His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied...

76 And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
 because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
 by the forgiveness of their sins,  
 78 because of God's tender mercies,  
 by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,  
 79 to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.

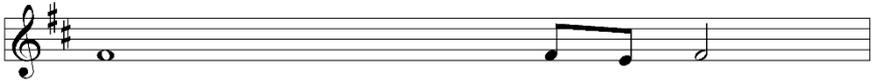
*Be Prepared To Celebrate Your Salvation*

*I. Aware of the nature of it*

*II. Astounded at the source of it*

*III. Appreciative for the blessings of it*

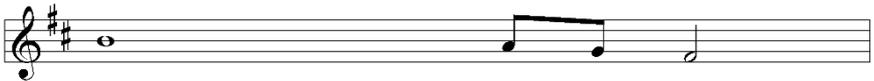
**Our Response to God's Word: *The Benedictus***



1 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el;  
 3 Through his holy prophets he promised  
 of old that he would save us from our en - e - mies,



he has come to his people and set them free.  
 from the hands of all who hate us,



2 He has raised up for us a mighty Sav - ior,  
 4 He promised to show mercy to our fa - thers



born of the house of his servant Da - vid.  
 and to remember his holy cov - e - nant.



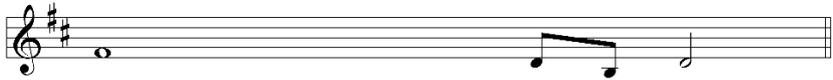
5 This was the oath he swore to our father A - bra - ham:



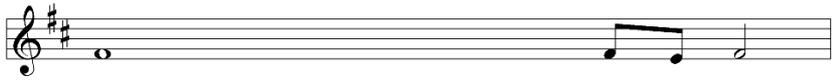
to set us free from the hands of our en - e - mies,



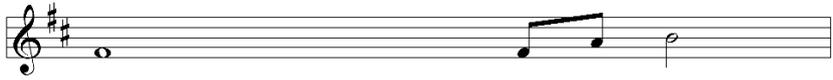
6 free to worship him with - out fear,



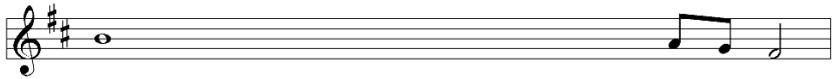
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.



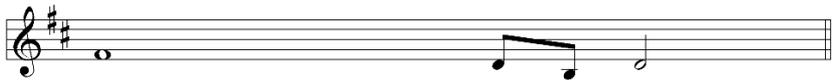
7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
9 In the tender compassion of our God,



for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare his way,  
the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,



8 to give his people knowledge of sal - va - tion  
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad - ow of death,



by the forgiveness of their sins.  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Offering (offerings may be placed into the basket in the narthex)**

**Prayer of the Church for Advent**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we long for your appearing! Come to us and cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people during their long night of watching and waiting.

**C: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.**

P: Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, where you will come from to make all things right again.

**C: Arise, O LORD, let not man triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence.**

P: Come and work in us godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the loveless way we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself for us.

**C: Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.**

P: Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the hustle and the bustle and the clamor of these days. Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger and keep our hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by your cradle uncaring.

**C: My eyes stay open through the watches of the night; that I may meditate on your promises.**

P: We pray also for those who are sorrowing and grieving, for those undergoing spiritual trials, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and enlighten them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

**C: The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.**

P: Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming!

**C: We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #28 (1-3) "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept his word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord --  
Him of twofold race behold --  
Truly came, as long foretold.

**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: #28 (4-6) "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"**

**4 Welcome, O my Savior, now!**

**Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.**

**Come into my heart, I pray;**

**Oh, prepare yourself a way.**

**5 Crush for me the serpent's head**

**That, set free from doubt and dread,**

**I may cling to you in faith,**

**Safely kept through life and death,**

**6 And, when you shall come again**

**As a glorious king to reign,**

**I with joy may see your face,**

**Freely ransomed by your grace.**

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

May we be ready to celebrate our salvation by being aware of the nature of that salvation, by being astounded at the source of that salvation, and appreciative of the blessings of that salvation.

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 – 149 (44/105)      Bible Study – 47

Offering Last Week – \$17,961.25      Sunday School – 12

*(Meeting our 2020 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$13,200.00.)*

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”*

*(Revelation 5:12)*

**Announcements:**

1. **The large outdoor wreath** facing Milton Ave. was given by Bud Thiede in loving memory of his wife, Bethany.
2. **Bible Class** Sunday morning Bible class has resumed at its usual time slot between services. Bible class meets in the fellowship area downstairs. We will be studying 1 Peter chapter 4.
3. **Women's Bible Study** is held on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. All women of St. Matthew's are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!
4. **2021 Offering Envelopes** – Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes in the lower hallway.
5. **Evening Guild** would like to invite the ladies to pick up an Advent devotional booklet. It is entitled “Christ Is The World's Light”. They are on a special table located under the windows in the narthex. If anyone who is not coming to worship would like one, please contact Bev Boughton 608-449-5554, Judy Fanning 608-757-2559, Karin DeLong-Eichman 608-208-8094 or Evie Burkholder 608-741-1128 and we will gladly deliver one to you. *May the Holy Spirit bless your meditation as we eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, the World's Light.*
6. **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.
7. **Christmas Day Pre-service Music** If you are planning to come to

our Christmas Day service, which begins at 9:00 a.m., you may want to come just a bit early to enjoy pre-service music. The pre-service music will begin at 8:45 a.m.

8. **New Year's Eve Service** Please note that there will not be a New Year's Eve service this year.
9. **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](mailto:lsage@stmatthewsjanesville.org).
10. **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.
11. **Live Streaming** Our upcoming Christmas worship services in church are Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. and Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. Additionally, for the first time both services will be livestreamed. Live streaming means both will be available in real time on YouTube. So, if attendance in person does not work one can worship at home on their computer – virtual worship.
12. **Sunday School Virtual Christmas Service** The telling of the birth of our Savior will be told by our Sunday School children and will be available online at [stmatthewsjanesville.org](http://stmatthewsjanesville.org) or on Facebook.
13. **Lakeside Lutheran High School** A special call meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, at 6:30 pm, in the West Gym. The single agenda item for this meeting will be to issue a divine call for a Science teacher. If there is a change to the agenda, you will be notified via email.
14. **The January 2021 school newsletter and calendar** are available on the counter in the narthex. Please take one if you wish.

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### Assisting with Worship

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**Organist:** Meredith Moeller

**Ushers:**

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

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

**Ushers Next Week:**

8:00 a.m. – Mark Schulz, Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt,  
Cody Stanelle, Kevin Paasch

10:30 a.m. – Jim Langkamp, Grant Langkamp, Phil Madsen

**Church Cleaning:**

December 19, 2020 – Brian Hartwig & Roger Howard families

December 26, 2020 – Tom Heth & Corey Jackson families

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**St. Matthew's Bible Classes**

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**Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.**

“I Peter Chapter 4”

**Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**

“The Birth of Jesus”

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

Class will resume on January 4, 2021

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

Class will resume on January 6, 2021

**Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.**

Class will resume on January 3, 2021

**Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**

Class will resume on January 3, 2021

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

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**Sunday**

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

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

**Wednesday**

Public School Confirmation

Class 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday**

Christmas Eve Worship

6:30 p.m.

**Friday**

Christmas Day Worship

9:00 a.m.

**Sunday**

Worship with Lord's Supper

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

No Sunday School

No Bible Class





