



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the Fourth Sunday in Advent (8:00 a.m.)

December 22, 2024

Opening Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices CW 329:1-4

- 1 All my heart again rejoices
as I hear far and near
sweetest angel voices.
"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing
till the air ev'rywhere
now with joy is ringing.
- 2 Hear! The conqueror has spoken:
"Now the foe, sin and woe,
death and hell are broken!"
God is man, man to deliver,
and the Son now is one
with our blood forever.
- 3 Should we fear our God's displeasure,
who, to save, freely gave
his most precious treasure?
To redeem us he has given
his own Son from the throne
of his might in heaven.
- 4 See the Lamb, our sin once taking
to the cross, suff'ring loss,
full atonement making.
For our life his own he tenders,
and his grace all our race
fit for glory renders.

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

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.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise: All My Heart Again Rejoices CW 329:5

All: ♪ Softly from his lowly manger

Jesus calls one and all,

“You are safe from danger.

Children, from the sins that grieve you

you are freed; all you need

I will surely give you.”

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

though you are small among the clans of Judah,

from you, will go out the one

who will be the ruler for me in Israel.

His goings forth are from the beginning,

from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the Lord will give them up,

until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers

will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd

with the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell securely,

for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵**This one will be their peace.**

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: All My Heart Again Rejoices CW 329:6

All: ♪ Come, then, banish all your sadness!

**One and all, great and small,
come with songs of gladness;
we shall live with him forever
there on high in that joy
which will vanish never.**

Gospel: Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.**

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹**because the Mighty One has done great things for me,**
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things,

but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and his offspring forever.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

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: To Shepherds as They Watched by Night CW 335

**1 To shepherds as they watched by night
appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender babe," they said,
"in yonder lowly manger laid,**

- 2 **“At Bethlehem, in David’s town,
as Micah did of old make known.
It is the Christ, your Lord and King,
who will to all salvation bring.”**
- 3 **O then rejoice that through his Son
God is with sinners now at one;
made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
your brother is th’ eternal God.**
- 4 **What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.
Let hell and Satan storm and rave,
Christ is your brother—you are safe.**
- 5 **Not one he will or can forsake;
his promise he will never break.
Let ev’ry scheme the tempter try,
you may his utmost pow’rs defy.**

Sermon: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

¹²He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil)

¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but

with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

You're No Angel

I. Christ came to be your brother

II. Christ came so he could suffer

III. Christ came and we will conquer

Response to God's Word

**6 You shall and must at last prevail;
God's own you are, you cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
with joy and patience all your days.**

Offering

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, 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: I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven.

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

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: O Rejoice, All Christians Loudly CW 366

1 O rejoice, all Christians, loudly,
for our joy has now begun;
wondrous things our God has done.

Tell abroad his goodness proudly,
who our race has honored thus,
that he has befriended us. (Refrain)

**Ref Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
for the Sun of grace is shining!**

**2 See, my soul, your Savior chooses
poverty and weakness, too;
in such love he comes to you.
Neither crib nor cross refuses,
all he suffers for your good
to redeem you by his blood. (Refrain)**

**3 Lord, how shall I thank you rightly?
I am saved eternally
by your life and death for me.
Let me not forget it lightly,
but with all my heart believe
that from you I shall receive. (Refrain)**

Prayer

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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: O Rejoice, All Christians Loudly CW 366

**4 Jesus, guard and guide your members,
fill them with your boundless grace,
hear their prayers in ev'ry place.
Fan to life faith's glowing embers;
grant all Christians far and near
holy peace, a glad new year. (Refrain)**

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

Let us rejoice today that we are not angels, and we know this for sure because Christ came as our brother to suffer for us so that through him we will conquer sin and death.

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 — 328 (155, 105, 68) Bible Classes – 45

Offering Last Week—\$16,676.75 Sunday School – 16

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

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" Isaiah 52:7.

Announcements:

1. **Thank You Volunteers!!** A most gracious appreciation goes out to the MANY volunteers that helped with another very successful Christmas for Kids Program last Saturday. We had a total of 63 that had registered and 56 children were able to attend our program. We may not know the spiritual effect on a young heart but are assured that God blessed our efforts with this program. Thank you once again for your food donations, time and faithful support of this outreach effort. *The Outreach/Fellowship Committee*
2. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will meet today between services in the Fellowship area. We will continue studying the book of Zechariah.
3. **The Women's Bible Study** The Women's Bible Study will meet in the library Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. All women are welcome!
4. **Sunday School** Sunday School will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.
5. **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.
6. **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.**

7. **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!
8. **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 tbiele28@yahoo.com or call her at 608-751-1050. You could also contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Jerry Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Alex Schmitt

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

Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain,
Jeff Burandt, Nathan Wagner

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel

Next Week Ushers:

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

10:30 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

CODS:

Sunday December 22, 8:00 a.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m. – Karl Kroening

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m. – Kyle Stade

Next Week CODS:

Sunday December 29, 8:00 a.m. – Marc Augsburg

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. – Brian Hartwig

Greeters

Sunday, December 22, 8:00 a.m. – Dale & Lynn Beutin

Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m. – Ann Janke

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, December 29, 8:00 a.m. – Bob & Linda Williams

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. – Mary Kowal

Church Cleaning:

December 28, 2024 – Phil Fry & Craig Groninger families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Service 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Christmas Day Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday

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

No Sunday School or Bible Class

Upcoming Worship Services

St. Matthew's Christmas Services

Sunday, December 22, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

(Sunday School Christmas Service 10:30 a.m. – Sr. Choir Sings)

Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

(Candlelight Service – Sr. Choir Sings)

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.

(Christmas Day Service with Orchestra)

Sunday, December 29, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday School or Bible Class)



*We thank all who beautified our
worship this Christmas
with poinsettias!*



*Dale & Lynn Beutin in memory of grandparents, parents, brother,
sister-in-law, nephew*

*David & Laurie Benson in memory of Marvin & Marion Schumacher
Charlotte Bothum in memory of Chuck & Irene Lauer & John Schroeder*

Nick & Nicole Caminata in memory of Dad

Jim & Shirley Daley in memory of their parents

*Don & Bridget Dickinson in memory of Norm & Grace Dickinson &
Barb & Ludwig Kavetschanky*

*Bill and Lois Forbes in memory of their parents
Scott & Hany Fugate*

Beverly Gasner in memory of her husband Jerry Gasner

Tom & Cheryl Heth in memory of their parents

Pastor James & Ann Janke in memory of our faithful Christian fathers

Susan Kutz in memory of her father, Jay Rhodes

John & Karen Leeder in memory of their sons John & A.J.

*Dennis & Shirley Leffel in memory of Delmar Leffel, Dennis's dad
McIlvain family in memory of Wayne & Joyce Rohloff, Shirley Jacob &
Alberta Morehead*

*Jean Muche in memory of her husband Vern Muche
Sheila Neuzil Butzow*

*Penny Pucher in memory of Elma & Malin Pucher, Mattila & Pucher families
Steve & Lori Sage in memory of Ray & Evelyn Wendt, Fred Sage, Georgia Wendt*

*Jack & Diane Schroeder in memory of their son John T. Schroeder &
parents, Wilbert & Lita Schroeder*

*St. Matthew's Evening Guild in memory of Charlane Gibney,
Emmarie Reed, & Betty Carl*

Jerry & Sally Wellnitz in memory of their parents & grandparents

Tom & Resa Truppe in memory of their parents

Bob & Linda Williams in memory of loved ones

