

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Worship for the 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024

Opening Hymn: Let All Together Praise Our God CW 355

1 Let all together praise our God

before his highest throne;

today he opens heav'n again

and gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,

is born an infant small,

and in a manger, poor and lone,

lies in a humble stall, lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine

a servant's form to take,

in want and lowliness must pine

who heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,

puts on our human frame,

and in return gives us his realm,

his glory, and his name, his glory, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—

a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me

to help me in my need, to help me in my need?

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.

Song of Praise *CW 157*

♪ Glory be to God on high,

and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,

we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; 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: Isaiah 50:4-10

⁴The Lord God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,

so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

⁵The Lord God opened my ear,

and I myself was not rebellious.

I did not turn back.

⁶**I submitted my back to those who beat me,**

and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

⁷The Lord God will help me,

so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

⁸The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me?

Let him approach me.

⁹Look, the Lord God will help me.

Who then can declare me guilty?

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.

A moth will consume them.

¹⁰Who among you worships the Lord

and listens to the voice of his servant?

Anyone who walks in darkness

and who has no bright light—

let him trust in the name of the Lord,

and let him lean on his God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day (*tune of CW 355*)

♪ **For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.**

**The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.**

Epistle: 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: The Boyhood of Christ *tune of CW 899*

1 The growing limbs of God the Son,
the Father's sole-begotten One,
prepare him for his work on earth,
who for mankind took human birth.

2 In grace and wisdom Jesus grows,
each step of human life he knows;
in all but sin like us was made,
to be a fallen people's aid.

**3 His Father's house he enters in,
where rabbis teach their cure for sin,
while in his heart he hears the call
which through his cross won life for all.**

**4 And he who rules angelic bands,
who high in heav'nly glory stands,
now yields him to his parents' will,
a boy's obedience to fulfill.**

Sermon: Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

Jesus, A Child With Special Needs

- I. He needs to take care of his heavenly Father's Business*
- II. He needs to always be obedient to his earthly parents*

Response to God's Word *(tune of CW 899)*

**5 To him, the Father's only Son,
let praise and honor now be done,
who by the Holy Spirit's grace
took flesh to save our human race.**

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord of heaven and earth.

P: We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ,

C: and we remember the great acts of love through which he has redeemed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

P: By his incarnation,

C: he became one with us.

P: By his perfect life,

C: he fulfilled your holy will.

P: By his innocent death,

C: he robbed death of its sting.

P: By his rising from the grave,

C: he broke the power of the grave and opened heaven.

P: Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word,

C: we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts.

P: Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood,

C: and preserve us in the true faith

P: until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

The 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.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Tune of CW 413*



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Words of Institution

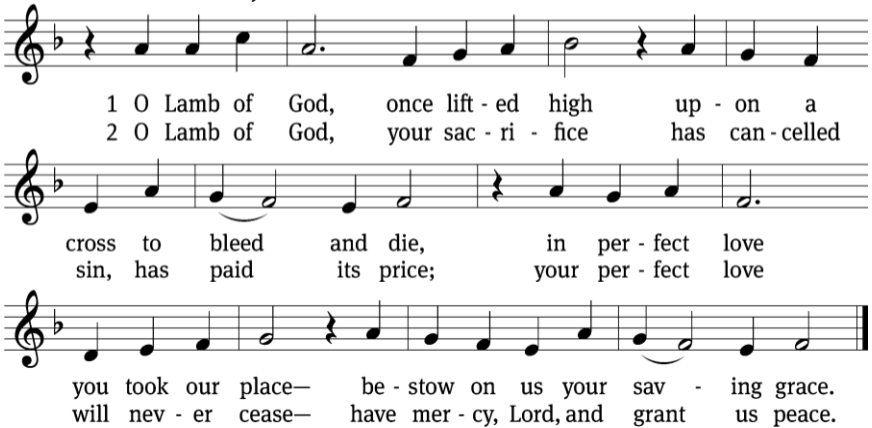
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God *Tune of CW 641*



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love
you took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
will nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: "Draw Near and Take" CW 668

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.

2 Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
himself the off'ring and himself the priest.

3 Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
and take the pledges of salvation here.
Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
gives all believers life that never ends.

4 With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
in this great feast of love be with us now.

Distribution Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *CW 331*

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this little child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be
from all your sins to set you free.

4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
prepared by God for all below,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.

5 "These are the signs which you shall mark:
the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done
in sending us his own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery,
that you might share your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,
how weak you are, so poor and small,
that you should choose to lay your head
where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
it would be far too poor and small
a cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king, so rich and great,
to be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases you to see
this simple truth revealed to me:
that worldly honor, wealth, and might
are weak and worthless in your sight.

Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come CW 331

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
within my heart, made clean and new,
a quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
my lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing with joyful tongue
that sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us his Son has giv'n,
while angels sing with pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

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Communion Registration *Communicant members of St. Matthew's are reminded to register for Holy Communion on the "Care Card" found in the pews. If you are visiting St. Matthew's today, we request that you please speak with the Pastor before communing. Questions and answers which will assist you in preparing for partaking of the Lord's Supper are found beginning on page 295 in the hymnal.*

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

Rejoice today that Jesus is a child with special needs: he needs to take care of his heavenly Father’s business and he needs to always be obedient to his earthly parents.

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—12/20/24 6:30 p.m. – 325 (Children’s Service)

12/22/23 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. –250 (Reg. Svc. & SS Svc.)

12/24/24 6:30 p.m. – 234 (Candlelight)

12/25/24 9:00 a.m. – 180 (Christmas Day)

Offering Last Week—\$13,178.54

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

“Then I said, “Here I am, I have come. The book written on a scroll tells about me. My God, I take pleasure in doing your will” Psalm 40:7-8.

Announcements:

1. **Thank You**—Thank you to all who helped out with our Advent/Christmas celebrations this year. To those who worked hard to decorate the Lord’s house inside and out, purchased poinsettias to beautify the Lord’s house; to the members of the choir who offered their voices in praise to the newborn Savior; to those who set up for, prepared food for, served and cleaned up after our Advent dinners; to all who attended our special services; to our accompanists, instrumentalists, ushers and to all who work together here offering themselves, their time, their resources, and abilities in joyful service to Jesus Christ, our newborn King and Savior ...Thank you!
2. **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.*
3. **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*

4. **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*
5. **Church Services** Please note that we will not have a service on New Year's Eve, December 31, nor will we have a service on Thursday evening, January 2. We will begin our Thursday services again on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.
6. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will not meet today. We will resume classes on Sunday, January 5 between services in the Fellowship area. We will continue studying the book of Malachi.
7. **The Women's Bible Study** The Women's Bible Study will not meet on Wednesday, January 1 but will resume class on Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the library. All women are welcome to attend!
8. **Sunday School** Sunday School will not meet this week but will resume classes on Sunday, January 5 at 9:15 a.m. By the way, thank you to the students and staff of our Sunday School for the beautiful Christmas service you presented on the fourth Sunday in Advent.
9. **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.
10. **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!
11. **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.**

12. **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.
13. **Thank you to the women** who served on the altar guild for the month of December: Brenda Groninger, Rachel Schmitt, and Bev Boughton. Serving for the month of January will be: Resa Truppe, Karen Schulz, and Hazel Connors.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

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

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

Next Week Ushers:

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

CODS:

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

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

Next Week CODS:

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

Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. – Phil Fry

Greeters

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

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

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, January 5, 8:00 a.m. – Mike & Bethann Borchardt

Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. – Art & Linda Hilker

Church Cleaning:

January 4, 2025 – Pastor Janke & Karl Kroening families

January 11, 2025 – Paul Kleban & Jean Muche families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday (December 29)

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

No Sunday School or Bible Class

Sunday (January 5)

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

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

CHRIST 
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN!