



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)
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*Worship for the 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 3 & 6, 2020*

Opening Hymn: #1 "The Advent of our King"

**1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**

**2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his servants free.**

**3 O Zion's Daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let a faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.**

**4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And his true members all unite
With him in heav'n to reign.**

**5 Before the dawning Day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

(please stand)

**6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

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: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: Joel 3:9-17

⁹Proclaim this among the nations:

Consecrate yourselves for war!

Rouse the strong warriors!

Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords,

and your pruning knives into spears.

Let the weakling say,

"I am a strong warrior!"

¹¹Come quickly to help,

all you nations from every side, and assemble there.

Bring down your strong warriors, O LORD!

¹²**Let the nations be roused.**

Let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,

for there I will be seated to judge all the nations.

¹³Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, trample the grapes,

for the winepress is full and the vats overflow,

because the nations' wickedness is so great!

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision!

For the Day of the LORD is near in the Valley of Decision.

¹⁵The sun and moon will be darkened,
and the stars will stop shining.

¹⁶The LORD will roar from Zion
and shout from Jerusalem.

The sky and the earth will tremble.

But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,

a stronghold for the people of Israel.

¹⁷**Then you will know**

that I, the LORD your God,

dwell in Zion, my holy mountain.

Verse of the Day



Gospel: Matthew 24:30-44

³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. And at that time all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

³²“Learn this lesson from the fig tree. When its branch has become tender and produces leaves, you know that summer is near.

³³In the same way, when you see all these things, know that he is near, right at the doors. ³⁴Amen I tell you: This generation will

certainly not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶“No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. ³⁸In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the very day that Noah entered the ark. ³⁹And they did not realize what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.

⁴⁰“At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.

P: This the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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: #704 (CWS) "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,

Once for ev'ry sinner slain.

Thousand, thousand saints attending

Swell the triumph of his train.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ reveals his endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him

Robed in glorious majesty;

Those who ridiculed and sold him,

Pierced and nailed him to the tree,

Deeply wailing, Deeply wailing, Deeply wailing,

Shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion

Still his dazzling body bears,

Cause of endless exultation

To his ransomed worshipers.

With what wonder, With what wonder, With what wonder,

Gaze we on those glorious scars.

4 Yea, Amen, let all adore you

High on your eternal throne.

Ev'ry knee shall bow before you;

Come and take your people home!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You shall reign and you alone!

Sermon Text: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, ²for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day could take you by surprise like a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

The Day Of The Lord Will Bring Sudden Destruction

I. But we don't have to be surprised

II. And we don't have to be destroyed

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: #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.

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

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: #19 (5) "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

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.

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

Let us keep watch for the advent of our Lord in glory so that we are prepared for his coming and protected from destruction on that day.

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 – Thanksgiving (42) Sunday (89)

Offering Last Week – \$11,818.00 Bible Class – 4

Sunday School – 8

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

“I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise.

I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me?”

(Psalm 101:1,2)

Announcements:

1. **Thank you!** Thank you to Congregational Assistant, Dale Beutin, for handling our services this week while Pastor Janke is quarantined. Today’s service was prepared by Pastor Janke. We are thankful that Mr. Beutin not only has the ability but the willingness to handle a service when needed.
2. **Thank You** – A special thank you to all those who worked on remodeling the Milton Avenue entryway. Those who donated their time and skills include: Matt Hirsch, George Ehlers, Rich Hatfield, Bob Williams, Jerry Wellnitz, Gerry Haecker, Anna Stirmel, and Roger Howard. As you can see it took a real team effort to get this project done, but the result is beautiful and we are glad to have the additional gathering space. *“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God” (II Corinthians 9:12).*
3. **Bible Class** Sunday morning Bible class will not meet this morning.
4. **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!
5. **2021 Offering Envelopes** – Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes in the lower hallway.

6. **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.*
7. **Poinsettias**. It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our altar for Christmas. K & W Greenery will provide 6.5" flowers for \$12.00. Envelopes are available on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Make checks payable to St. Matthews. Envelopes may be placed in the collection plate or in the church office. You can also mail your check to St. Matthews. If you do not use the envelop on the board, please let us know who the poinsettia is in memory of and the number of poinsettias you would like to buy. Deadline is Sunday, December 14, 2020. If there are any questions, please contact Linda Williams 676-4257.
8. **Virtual Advent by Candlelight** at St. John's in Milwaukee. Kathryn Hendee is a member at St. Johns. Their program will take place virtually, participants only, on **Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.** It will be live-streamed and archived for later viewing (if you are unable to view at the specific time) at sjtosa.org. Once the website has been accessed, click on the "Worship" tab at the top of the page. There will be a drop-down menu, and if you click on "View Services Live", it should bring you to the Advent by Candlelight service. Here's another opportunity to enrich your Advent season and see what a sister church is doing!

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Jeff Burandt, Mike Fox

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

Ushers Next Week:

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

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

Church Cleaning:

December 12, 2020 – Mike Fox & Craig Groninger families

December 19, 2020 – Brian Hartwig & Roger Howard families

St. Matthew's Bible Classes

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

No Bible Class this morning.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“The Fall of Jericho”

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.

“Fellowship”

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

“Romans 16”

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“God Gives Gideon the Victory”

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

No Bible Class

Monday

Building & Grounds Meeting

6:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday

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

Public School Confirmation

Class 5:00 p.m.

Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Evening Worship with Lord's

Supper 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

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

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

