



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the 5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 1 & 4, 2024

Opening Hymn: The Will of God Is Always Best CW 838

- 1 The will of God is always best
and shall be done forever;
and they who trust in him are blest;
he will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need;
he chastens with forbearing.
They who depend on God, their friend,
shall not be left despairing.
- 2 God is my comfort and my trust,
my hope and life abiding,
and to his counsel, wise and just,
I yield, in him confiding.
The very hairs, his Word declares,
upon my head he numbers.
By night and day God is my stay;
he never sleeps nor slumbers.
- 3 Lord, this I ask, O hear my plea,
deny me not this favor:
when Satan sorely troubles me,
then do not let me waver.
O guard me well, my fear dispel,
fulfill your faithful saying:
all who believe by grace receive
an answer to their praying.

4 **When life's brief course on earth is run
and I this world am leaving,
grant me to say, "Your will be done,"
your faithful Word believing.
My heav'nly Friend, I now commend
my soul into your keeping,
o'er sin and hell and death as well
in you the vict'ry reaping.**

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 *(sung to tune of CW 413)*



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it at God the Fa - ther's throne



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: O Lord, keep your family the church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lesson: Isaiah 38:9-21

⁹A poem written by Hezekiah king of Judah, after his illness and recovery:

¹⁰I thought that, only halfway through my life,

I was entering into the gates of death,

deprived of the remaining years of my life.

¹¹**I thought, I will not see the LORD**

—the LORD in the land of the living.

I will no longer see anyone among the inhabitants of the world.

¹²My dwelling place is being pulled down.

It is carried away from me like a shepherd's tent.

I have rolled up my life like a weaver.

He is cutting me off from the loom.

From day until night, you make an end of me.

¹³**I pondered this until morning.**

He will break all my bones like a lion!

From day until night, you make an end of me.

¹⁴I chirp weakly like a swift or a swallow.

I mourn like a dove.

My eyes are tired from looking upward.

O Lord, I am oppressed.

Be my security.

¹⁵**What can I say?**

He has spoken to me, and he is the one to act.

I will march slowly throughout all my years,

because my heart is bitter.

¹⁶**Lord, people live because you give them life.**

My spirit lives through this.

Restore me, and let me live.

¹⁷The bitter things I experienced were for my benefit.

Your love has preserved my life from the pit of destruction,

for you have thrown all my sins behind your back.

¹⁸**The grave cannot thank you.**

Death cannot praise you.

Those who go down into the pit cannot trust your faithfulness.

¹⁹The living one, the living one, he praises you, as I do today.

A father tells his children about your faithfulness.

²⁰The LORD will save me, so we will sing songs with stringed instruments

all the days of our lives in the House of the LORD.

²¹Isaiah had said, "Have them take a cake of figs, apply it as a poultice on the inflamed spot, and he will recover."

Verse of the Day *(sung to tune of CW 413)*

♪ **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.**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). ³And I know that such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) ⁴was carried up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words that a man cannot possibly speak. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. ⁶Indeed, if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from doing this, so that no one will think more highly of me than what he sees in me or hears from me.

⁷Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. ⁹And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

¹⁰That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The 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: Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

CW 831

1 Why should cross and trial grieve me?

Christ is near

with his cheer;

never will he leave me.

Who can rob me of the heaven

that God's Son for me won

when his life was given?

2 When life's troubles rise to meet me,

though their weight

may be great,

they will not defeat me.

God, my loving Savior, sees them;

he who knows all my woes

knows how best to end them.

- 3 God gives me my days of gladness,
and I will trust him still
when he sends me sadness.
God is good; his love attends me
day by day, come what may,
guides me and defends me.
- 4 From God's joy can nothing sever,
for I am his dear lamb,
he, my Shepherd ever.
I am his because he gave me
his own blood for my good,
by his death to save me.

Sermon: Mark 1:40-44

⁴⁰ A leper came to Jesus. He knelt down and begged him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be clean." ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was healed. ⁴³ Then Jesus gave him a stern warning and immediately sent him away. ⁴⁴ He told him, "See that you do not say anything to anyone. Instead go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the sacrifices for your cleansing that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Face Sickness With Faith

I. Faith that seeks God's help

II. Faith that submits to God's will

III. Faith that celebrates God's goodness

Response to God's Word

♪ Since I know God never fails me,
in his voice I'll rejoice
when grim death assails me.
Trusting in my Savior's merit,
safe at last, troubles past,
I shall heav'n inherit.

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.

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.

Hymn: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near *CW 867 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4*

1 Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near,
your Savior's gracious promise hear;
his faithful Word you can believe,
that as your days your strength shall be.
(v. 2)

2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong,
and if the conflict should be long,
the Lord will make the tempter flee,
that as your days your strength shall be.
(Refrain)

Ref So, sing with joy, afflicted one;
the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!
God shall supply all that you need;
yes, as your days your strength shall be.

3 Should persecution rage and flame,
still trust in your Redeemer's name.
In fiery trials you shall see
that as your days your strength shall be.
(Refrain)

4 When called to bear your weighty cross,
or sore affliction, pain, or loss,
or deep distress, or poverty,
still as your days your strength shall be.
(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.

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: Jesus, Still Lead On CW 842

- 1 **Jesus, still lead on till our rest is won;
and although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand to our fatherland.**
- 2 **If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
let not faith and hope forsake us,
for through many’_ a woe to our home we go.**
- 3 **When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring,
make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.**
- 4 **Jesus, still lead on till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us
till we safely stand in our fatherland.**

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

Let us face sickness with faith by seeking God’s help, submitting to God’s will and celebrating God’s goodness to us when we are sick.

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 Sunday— 248 (47/201) Bible Classes – 74

Offering Last Week—\$10,204.50 Sunday School – 22

Finish the Work - **\$85,237.75**

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

“It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.”

Psalm 119:71.

Announcements:

1. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – We have begun a study of the Minor Prophets in Bible Class. We are currently studying the book of the prophet Joel. Bible class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship area downstairs. You are invited to join us.
2. **A Call Meeting** was held on Sunday, January 21 after the 10:30 service. Mr. Joel Sonntag was called to be our 7th and 8th grade teacher and principal. Mrs. Emily Fleming was called to be our 5th and 6th grade teacher and Athletic Director. Please keep these people in your prayers as they deliberate their calls to St. Matthews.
3. **Evening Guild** – February 12th the Evening Guild would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to join them for a Valentine get-together at Mac’s Pizza Shack on Milton Avenue at 6:00 p.m. It is an evening where ladies invite and treat their husband, a friend or guest or just come and enjoy. There is a signup sheet on the lower bulletin board if you are able to attend. If you have any questions, you may contact Carol Hirsch (608-756-0160 or Sally Wellnitz (608-752-2037).
4. **During the month of January, Bible class participants collected \$405.00** for a building project for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, NM. Thank you to all who contributed to this project. Monies collected will be sent to this congregation to help with the expense of purchasing land to build a new church.
5. **Women’s Bible Class** Women’s Bible Class is held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are currently working on our handouts regarding Pastor Mark Paustian’s books “Prepared to Answer” and “More Prepared to Answer”. We hope to have the lessons ready to print in 2024. When we aren’t doing these lessons we are using a Women’s Bible Study Book from NPH called “In God’s Orchard- Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.
6. **Evening Guild is inviting** anyone to attend a presentation given by Mark Schulz on Monday evening, February 5th. He will speak about our World Missions Board, his role and how long he’s been involved, among other interesting adventures and facts. He

should begin speaking at about 7:20 in the fellowship hall. Please join us as we learn about this important arm of the WELS missions.

7. **Evening Guild will have their February meeting Monday, February 5th, 6:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Just a few reminders; Bring a puzzle or two and a book or two as it is puzzle and book swap night (totally voluntary), Mark Schulz will be our speaker on world missions, we will have our usual study of *Esther*, and a short business meeting with Dale Beutin speaking to us briefly about our shut-ins. It would be helpful to read session 2, pgs. 19-24 in *Esther* and be ready to start our study at 6:30. Also please reread the minutes and if there are any corrections have them ready, this will eliminate reading the minutes at the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation and we'll see you Monday the 5th.
8. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet at 5:00 p.m.
9. **Finish the Work** Perhaps you have noticed that we are running regular updates for the special "Finish the Work" debt retirement/reduction offering. **To date offerings given to this special effort total over \$85,000.00!! We have received 64 special offering envelopes.** For this we thank our gracious God and his generous people here at St. Matthews. If you would still like to participate in the offering, special "Finish the Work" envelopes are still available on the counter in the narthex. Thank you again to all for your prayers and support.
10. **The February school newsletter and calendars** are available on the counter in the narthex. Take one if you wish.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

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

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

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Tom Timmermann,
Alex Schmitt

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

CODS:

Thursday, February 1, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Stirmel

Sunday, February 4, 8:00 a.m. – Kyle Stade

Sunday, February 4, 10:30 a.m. – Jim Daley

Next Week CODS:

Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. – Briton Peterson

Sunday, February 11, 8:00 a.m. – Brian Hartwig

Sunday, February 11, 10:30 a.m. – Karl Kroening

Greeters

Sunday, February 4, 8:00 a.m. – John & Joanne May

Sunday, February 4, 10:30 a.m. – Shari Deegan

Next Week Greeters:

Sunday, February 11, 8:00 a.m. – Judy Fanning

Sunday, February 11, 10:30 a.m. – Jean Ruppier

Church Cleaning:

February 10, 2024 – Craig Groninger & Brian Hartwig families

February 17, 2024 – Jim Heiman & Scott Hendee families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

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

Sunday School & Bible

Class 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Evening Guild 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

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

Public School Confirmation

5:00 p.m.

Sr. Choir 5:45 p.m.

Thursday

Worship with Communion

6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible

Class 9:15 a.m.

