

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the 5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 2 & 5, 2023

Opening Hymn: #81 "Arise and Shine in Splendor"

1 Arise and shine in splendor;

Let night to day surrender.

Your light is drawing near.

Above, the day is beaming,

In matchless beauty gleaming;

The glory of the Lord is here.

2 See earth in darkness lying,

The heathen nations dying

In hopeless gloom and night.

To you the Lord of heaven—

Your life, your hope—has given

Great glory, honor, and delight.

3 Lift up your eyes in wonder—

See, nations gather yonder

From sin to be set free.

The world has heard your story;

Your sons come to your glory,

And daughters haste your light to see.

4 Your heart will leap for gladness

When from the realms of sadness

They come from near and far.

Your eyes will wake from slumber

As people without number

Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

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.

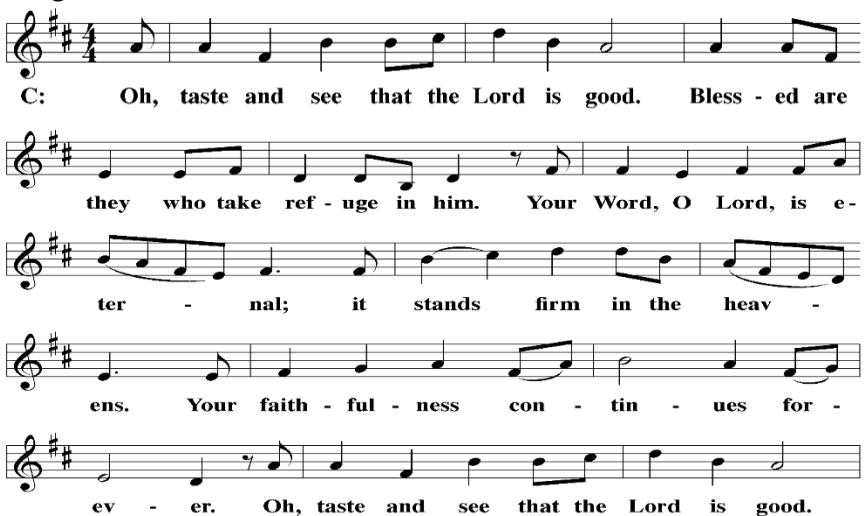
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

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.**

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

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.



P: Let us pray.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: Exodus 19:1-8a

In the third month after the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that same day of the month, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. ⁶You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."

⁷Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together, "Everything that the LORD has said, we will do."

Moses brought back the people's words to the LORD.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. ¹⁹So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P: This is 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: #774 "Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.

2 God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light;
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

**3 Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.**

Sermon Text: I Peter 2:9-12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. ¹²Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us.

God Has Called You Out Of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light

I. Know who you are

II. Show who you are

Response to God's Word

**4 Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service
sing his praise, his love declare.**

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: #394 "Blessed Are the Saints of God"

**1 Blessed are the saints of God; They are bought with Christ's own blood.
They are ransomed from the grave; Life eternal they shall have.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

**2 They are justified by grace; They enjoy the Savior's peace.
All their sins are washed away; They shall stand in God's great day.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

**3 They are lights upon the earth, Children of a heav'nly birth.
One with God, with Jesus one, Glory is in them begun.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

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: #471 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

**1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.**

**2 Destroy in me the lust of sin;
From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me pow'r and strength, my God,
To strive against my flesh and blood.**

3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.

4 Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.



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

May God who called us out of the darkness of sin and death into the marvelous light of his forgiveness and life lead us to know who we are and help us to show who we are!

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 — 168 (33/135)

Bible Class – 57

Offering Last Week—\$7,217.00

Sunday School – 22

(Meeting our 2023 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)

“How blessed is the one you choose and bring near!

He will dwell in your courtyards.

*We will be satisfied by the goodness of your house,
by the holiness of your temple”*

Psalms 65:4.

Announcements

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Karen Delong-Eichman.
2. **Bible Class** Bible Class will meet this morning as usual. Pastor Arndt will lead a study entitled “Biblical Truths Revealed to Us by Animals.”
3. **Woman’s Bible Class** – The Women’s Bible Study (Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.) will not meet this week. They will resume class on February 15 and continue with the book “More Prepared to Answer” by Mark Paustian. Each lesson stands alone so feel free to join at any time. Hope to see you there! *Debbie Lenser.*

4. **St. Matthew's Trivia Afternoon:** Are you constantly impressing (or boring) your friends and family with your vast knowledge of random trivia facts? We have the event for you! All are welcome to come and compete at our St. Matthew's Trivia Afternoon on **Sunday, February 26th at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** Invite your friends and family, form your teams, and get ready for a great time - there will be trivia questions galore from a wide variety of topics, snacks, and prizes for the winning teams! It's an afternoon you won't want to miss! Sign up on the bulletin board in the lower lobby - hope to see you there!
5. **Men's Monthly Bible Study** After studying the history of the Old Testament Jewish nation during the times of their captivity under Babylon and Persia (605-422 B.C.) using the books of *Ezra*, *Nehemiah*, *Haggai*, & *Zechariah*, our WELS Men's Monthly Bible Breakfast Study is going to zero in on the historical account of **Queen Esther** during the time of the Persian Empire. Esther's story occurs a little over 3 decades after the Jerusalem Temple's renovation/dedication and about a quarter century before the walls around Jerusalem were rebuilt. There are some insightful bits of information this account gives us of the way our Lord can work His will in the world's affairs, particularly using His faithful ones as His instruments.

Join us as we begin a closer look at the details of the story of *Esther* (Hadassah). When we've finished our study in a few months, we'll schedule a "movie night" to watch the movie "**One Night With The King**," starring Tiffany DuPont as Esther and Omar Sharif as Mordecai, along with Peter O'Toole and Luke Goss.

We meet the **2nd Saturday of the month** (February 11, March 11, etc.) from **8-9 a.m.** at the **Citrus Cafe's "back room"**, next to the Hedberg Public Library of Janesville, 208 So. Main Street. Any questions? Contact *Pastor Rich Lehmann* at 608-295-6498 or rwlehmann1950@gmail.com

6. **More Greeters Are Still Needed** Being greeted when you enter a place indicates that you are welcomed and valued. We wouldn't think of allowing guests to enter our homes without a warm welcome. Why should our church be any different? We are

currently in need of Greeters to warmly welcome those who enter our doors. If you would like to be a member of this important ministry, please sign up on the lower bulletin board. Please indicate if you would like to greet in the 8:00 or 10:30 service. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Beutin at 608-774-5177.

7. **Ladies Evening Guild** will have their February meeting on Monday the 6th. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. We will have a sign-up for the Lenten meal which we will be serving March 1st, getting valentines ready for the shut-ins and other business to attend to with Easter fast approaching. Please join us!!
8. **Evening Guild** On February 13th, 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).
9. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will next meet on February 15 at 5:00 p.m.
10. **2022 Offering Statements** – Your 2022 Offering Statements are in your church mailbox. Please pick them up. If you have not picked up your 2023 envelopes, please do so. Even if you give electronically. We'd ask you to check the table for your envelope box since there are envelopes included for a variety of special occasions.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m.– Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt

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

Next Week Ushers:

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

10:30 a.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

CODS:

6:30 p.m. – Steve Sage

8:00 a.m. – Jim Daley

10:30 a.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Next Week CODS:

6:30 p.m. – Tom Timmermann

8:00 a.m. – Jim Daley

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage

Church Cleaning:

February 11, 2023 – Tara Chapman & Jeff Christianson families

February 18, 2023 – Jim Daley & Don Dickinson families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

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

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Evening Guild 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Fellowship/Outreach Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

No Women's Bible Study

No Confirmation Class

Sr. Choir Practice 5:45 p.m.

Thursday

Worship with Lord's Supper

6:30 p.m.

Sunday

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

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

