

“How can I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?”

Opening Hymn: #612 *“Praise to God, Immortal Praise”*

1 Praise to God, immortal praise, For the love that crowns our days.
Bounteous Source of ev’ry joy, Let your praise our tongues employ.
All to you, our God, we owe, Source whence all our blessings flow.

2 All the plenty summer pours, Autumn’s rich, o’erflowing stores,
Flocks that whiten all the plain, Yellow sheaves of ripened grain —
Lord, for these our souls shall raise Grateful vows and solemn praise.

3 Peace, prosperity, and health, Private bliss and public wealth,
Knowledge with its gladd’ning streams, True religion’s holier beams —
Lord, for these our souls shall raise Grateful vows and solemn praise.

4 As your prosp’ring hand has blest, May we give you of our best
And by deeds of kindly love For your mercies grateful prove,
Singing thus through all our days: *“Praise to God, immortal praise.”*

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Psalm (Psalm 116)

¹I love the LORD, because he hears my voice.

He hears my cry for mercy.

²Because he turned his ear to me,

I will call to him all my days.

³The ropes of death entangled me.

The walls of the grave hemmed me in.

I found distress and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD:**

“Ah, LORD, please save my life!”

⁵**The LORD is gracious and righteous,**
and our God is compassionate.

⁶**The LORD protects the inexperienced.**

In my weakness he saves me too.

⁷Return, my soul, to your rest,

for the LORD has accomplished his purpose for you.

⁸Indeed, you have delivered my soul from death,

my eye from weeping, my foot from stumbling,

⁹so that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁰I believed. Therefore I have spoken:

“I am greatly afflicted.”

¹¹In my haste I said:

“All people are deceptive.”

¹²How can I repay the LORD for all his benefits to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation,

and I will call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD,

now in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his favored ones.

¹⁶Ah, LORD, truly I am your servant.

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.

You opened my chains.

¹⁷To you I will sacrifice a thank offering,

and I will call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

here in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹in the courtyards of the house of the LORD,

in the middle of Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD!

Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, when we count the blessings you have given us, we are overwhelmed by your bounty. Though we are unworthy of the least of your gifts, you have not only freely and abundantly provided all we need for this life, but you sent your Son to be our Savior from sin and your Spirit to sanctify us by faith. Give us grateful hearts for all that you have given us. Do not permit our many earthly blessings to become snares Satan uses to cause us to stumble in our faith. Instead, move us to use our earthly blessings to help others and serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Jr. Choir 6:30 p.m.: "Come, O Come Let Us Sing" (see Page 9)

Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:9-14

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hymn: (by students) "Let Us Give Thanks to the Lord" (See Pg. 9-10)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Hymn: #609 “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer”

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.

Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;

When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,

And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer;

To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.

Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.

To you, our great Redeemer, fore’er be praise!

Sermon Text: Psalm 116:12

“How can I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?”

I. The ropes of death entangled me

Hymn: #615 “We Thank You for Your Blessings”

1 We thank you for your blessings, Almighty Lord, our King;

We thank you for the harvests, Yes, Lord, for ev’rything;

For flow’rs that bloom in springtime, For rip’ning fruit and grain,

For all the precious sunshine, And for the gentle rain.

2 This day of great thanksgiving We count them one by one:

Our free and fruitful country, The great things you have done,

Our family, our loved ones, The guardian angels’ care,

Our very self and heartbeat—Lord, hear our thankful prayer!

3 But best of all your blessings, The rainbow of your love,

Are all the many mercies Your Word brings from above.

Our life now has full meaning—Christ Jesus is our God!

Thanksgiving shall be living The way the Savior trod.

II. My gracious LORD delivered me

Hymn: #611 "For the Fruit of His Creation"

1 For the fruit of his creation, Thanks be to God.

For his gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,

Most of all that Love has found us, Thanks be to God.

III. So words just aren't enough for me

Hymn: #614 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

1 Sing to the Lord of harvest; Sing songs of love and praise.

With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.

By him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;

Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

2 God makes the clouds rain goodness; The deserts bloom and spring.

The hills leap up in gladness; The valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them with his fullness, All things with large increase;

He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.

3 Bring to this sacred altar The gifts his goodness gave,

The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.

Your hearts lay down before him When at his feet you fall,

And with your lives adore him Who gave his life for all.

Offering (*Offerings may be placed into the plates in the narthex*)

Thanksgiving Litany

P: We thank and praise you, O gracious God and Father, for the many blessings you have graciously bestowed upon us though we are entirely unworthy of any of them. Especially we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself into death that we might have life with you forever.

**(sing) All glory be to God on high,
who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh;
The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,
Bring peace, good will to all the earth.
Oh, thank him for his goodness. (CW:263)**

P: We thank and praise you, O gracious Lord, for the gift of your Word and Sacraments, by which the Holy Spirit brought us to faith and through which he gives us peace, confidence and hope.

**(sing) For the joy your advent gave me,
For your gospel's great reward,
For your baptism which has saved me,
For your supper and your Word,
For your death, the bitter scorn,
For your resurrection morn:
Lord, I thank you and extol you,
And in heav'n I shall behold you. (CW:147)**

P: We thank and praise you, O gracious God, for the gift of life and health and the abundant earthly blessings you have freely given us.

**(sing) Dear Father, endless praise I render
For soul and body, nobly joined,
I praise you, Guardian kind and tender,
For all the daily joys I find
So richly spread on ev'ry side
And freely for my use supplied. (CW:194)**

P: We thank and praise you, O gracious Lord, for your rich and tender comfort when our hearts are heavy with grief and sorrows overwhelm us.

**(sing) All praise to God who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r and love,
The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills,
The God who ev'ry sorrow stills--
To God all praise and glory! (CW:236)**

P: We thank and praise you, O gracious God, for the victory you have given our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ and who now live with you in glory.

**(sing) For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who their faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia! (CW:551)**

P: For all these and countless other blessings for soul and body which are new to us every morning, O gracious Lord, receive our humble praise and heartfelt thanks.

**(sing) Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
Come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him! (CW: 234)**

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

C: Amen.

Hymn: #610 "Now Thank We All Our God"

**1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.**

**2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.**

**3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.**



"Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord"

Refrain: Come, o come let us sing to the Lord our Savior! Come, o come let us sing to the Lord!

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving. Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. (refrain)

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand. The heights of the hills are also his. The sea is his for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. (refrain)

Oh, come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before our Maker. For his is our God, and we are his people, the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. (refrain)

"Let Us Give Thanks to the Lord"

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord. With jubilant voice and joyful noise, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord. With praise loud and strong and joyful song, let us give thanks to the Lord.

For gifts, small and great, we offer our praise.
For life and for love, our worship we raise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord. With jubilant voice and joyful noise, let us give thanks to the Lord.

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
With jubilant voice and joyful noise, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
With praise loud and strong and joyful song, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord!

Upcoming Special Services

Thanksgiving Eve – 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day – 9:00 a.m.

Advent Services – November 30, December 7 & 14, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Service – December 18, 10:30 a.m.

Christian Day School Service – Friday, December 23, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service – Saturday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service with Communion –

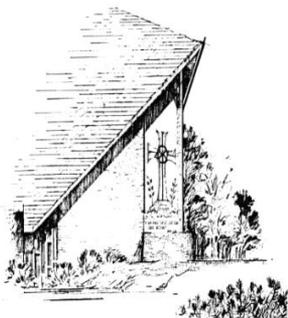
Sunday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Service – Sunday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.

Announcements:

1. **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 11, 2022.** If there are any questions, please contact Linda Williams 676-4257.
2. **Attention Bakers of St. Matthews!** We will need 20 **dozen** unfrosted cutout sugar cookies for the children to decorate during our Christmas for Kids program. If you would like to donate some cookies, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Thank You!

3. **Snack Donations Needed for Christmas for Kids** We are in need of various snack items for Christmas for Kids. If you are able to contribute, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Thank you!
4. **Jolly Jingle Parade We Need You! (Janesville Christmas Parade – December 3, 2022)** We want to spread the word to the community about the wonderful blessings that we have here at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and School. Can you spare some time to help decorate a float? Would you like to come and walk in the Christmas light parade and hand out fliers and candy? People of all ages are welcome to come and help, yes, even the children! If you are interested in helping spread the true meaning of Christmas, please sign up in the narthex or contact Liz Sanchez at (847)-346-2066. Sunday, November 27 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 29th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Friday, December 2 from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. are scheduled work dates. Float preparation will take place at St. Matthews.



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)
709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545
Church & School Phone: 752-1304
James Janke, Pastor 563-4383
Dale Beutin, Congregational Asst. 774-5177
Kevin Proeber, Principal 752-5035
www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

