

*Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield*

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The First Sunday after Christmas  
January 1, 2021



**Color of the Day:** White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

Opening Hymn . . #546 – O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild  
Confession and Absolution . . . . . Page 184

*Service of the Word*

Introit . . . . . Page 186

*Jeremiah 31:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1*

When Israel was a child, I | loved him,\*  
and out of Egypt I | called my son.  
Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in | Ramah,\*  
lamentation and bitter | weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her | children;\*  
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they | are  
no more."  
Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from | weeping,\*  
and your | eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work, de- | clares the LORD,\*  
and they shall come back from the land of the | enemy.  
There is hope for your future, de- | clares the LORD,\*  
and your children shall come back to their own | country."  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.  
When Israel was a child, I | loved him,\*  
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

Kyrie . . . . . Page 186

Hymn of Praise (Gloria In Excelsis) . . . . . Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 189

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading . . . . . Page 190

*Isiah 63 7-9*

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the Lord has done for us—  
yes, the many good things  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.  
<sup>8</sup>He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will be true to me";  
and so he became their Savior.  
<sup>9</sup>In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

Gradual . . . . . Page 190

*Isiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty  
God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

Epistle Reading . . . . . Page 190

*Galatians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Alleluia & Verse . . . . . Page 190

**Holy Gospel** ..... Page 190

*Matthew 2:13-23*

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

**Creed** ..... Page 191

**Hymn of the Day** . . . . #389 - *Let All Together Praise Our God*

**The Sermon** ..... **God's Plan Is Not Coincidence**  
*Gal. 4:4-7*

**Introduction**

It was a cold night \_\_\_\_\_ .

**When the Time Finally Came**

From the events of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Joseph had to go \_\_\_\_\_ .

Paul says, \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Christ Was Born**

Christ was born \_\_\_\_\_ .

As a human \_\_\_\_\_ .

**He Paid the Price**

The word "redeem" \_\_\_\_\_ ;

We cry out, " \_\_\_\_\_ " .

We are no longer \_\_\_\_\_ .

God made us \_\_\_\_\_ .

The last two words \_\_\_\_\_ .

That you are here today \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>*

**Offertory** ..... Page 192

**Offering** ..... Page 193

*Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.*

**Prayer Of The Church** ..... Page 193

*Service of the Sacrament*

**Preface** ..... Page 194

**P:** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** ..... Page 195

**Lord's Prayer** ..... Page 196

**The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini** ..... Page 197

**Agnus Dei** ..... Page 198

**Distribution** ..... Page 199

*Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.*

**Distribution Hymns** . . #384 – *Of The Father's Love Begotten*  
#358 – *From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come*  
#403 - *O Savior of Our Fallen Race*

**Nunc Dimittis** ..... Page 199

**Thanksgiving** ..... Page 200

**Salutation and Benedicamus** ..... Page 201

**Benediction** ..... Page 202

**Closing Hymn** . . . . . #381 - *Let Our Gladness Have No End*