

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## Second Sunday after Christmas ~ January 5, 2025

*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 . . . . . #523 – O Word of God Incarnate

Confession and Absolution. . . . . Page 184

### Service of the Word

Introit . . . . . Page 186

*Ps. 147:1, 5, 11-12; antiphon: John 1:14*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,\*  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;\*  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;\*  
his understanding is beyond | measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!\*

Praise your God, O | Zion!  
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.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,\*  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

Kyrie . . . . . Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis. . . . . Page 187

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

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the

same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading. . . . . Page 190

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." <sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Gradual . . . . . Page 190

*Is. 9:6; Ps. 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

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the

forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**Choral Anthem**

Alleluia & Verse (Common) . . . . . Page 190  
 Holy Gospel . . . . . Page 190

*Luke 2:40-52*

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Creed . . . . . Page 191/192  
 Children's Message  
 Hymn of the Day . . . . . #410 – *Within the Father's House*  
 The Sermon . . . . . Knowing Hope ~ Ephesians 1:3-14  
*Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswriting.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

The word "mystery" \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The word "kerygma" \_\_\_\_\_ .  
The Revelation of the Mystery  
 For too many \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The illustration of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery has been given through \_\_\_\_\_ .

Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery is made know through \_\_\_\_\_ .  
God's Promise in Sending Christ  
 Jesus came \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Jesus still comes \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Our Lord continues to come to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
What Does This Mean?  
 There is the mystery of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery is revealed every time \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery is revealed in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery is revealed in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The mystery is revealed in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 In simple terms \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Offertory . . . . . Page 192

Prayer of the Church & 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.*

*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 & Distribution . . . . . Page 198/199

*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 . . . . . #686 – *Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*  
 #395 – *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*  
 #602 - *The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*  
 Nunc Dimittis . . . . . Page 199  
 Thanksgiving . . . . . Page 200  
 Salutation and Benedicamus . . . . . Page 201  
 Benediction . . . . . Page 202  
 Closing Hymn . . . . . #399 – *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*