

*Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield*

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 21, 2024

**Color of the Day:** Green - suggesting spiritual growth and maturity. There is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

**Opening Hymn** . . . . . #583 – *God Has Spoken by His Prophets*  
**Confession and Absolution** . . . . . Page 167

*Service of the Word*

**Introit** . . . . . Page 168

*Ps. 113:1-2, 4, 7-8; antiphon: Ps. 113:3*

From the rising of the sun to its | setting,\*  
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!  
Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of the LORD,\*  
praise the name | of the LORD!  
Blessèd be the name | of the LORD\*  
from this time forth and for- | evermore!  
The LORD is high above all | nations,\*  
and his glory above the | heavens!  
He raises the poor | from the dust\*  
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,  
to make them sit with | princes,\*  
with the princes of his | people.  
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.  
From the rising of the sun to its | setting,\*  
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

**Kyrie** . . . . . Page 168

**Hymn of Praise (This Is The Feast)** . . . . . Page 170

**Salutation & Collect of the Day** . . . . . Page 172

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through 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 172

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**Gradual** . . . . . Page 172

*Ps. 117:1-2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*  
Extol him, all | peoples!  
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\*  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

**Epistle Reading** . . . . . Page 172

*1 Corinthians 7:29-35*

<sup>29</sup>This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

<sup>32</sup>I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup>and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup>I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

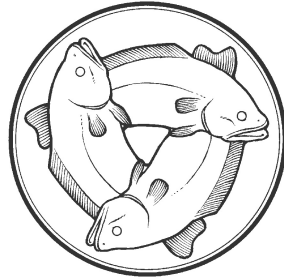
**Choral Anthem**

**Alleluia & Verse** ..... Page 173

**Holy Gospel** ..... Page 173  
*Mark 1:14-20*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.



**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... #839 - *O Christ, Our True and Only Light*

**The Sermon** ..... *The Time Is Short ~ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (32-35)*  
*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/>*

**Introduction**

We are almost \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Text**

Time is short, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul tells us we are to live \_\_\_\_\_.

This world is \_\_\_\_\_.

**What Does This Mean?**

Paul was writing \_\_\_\_\_.

Because Jesus will return soon \_\_\_\_\_.

This world is going \_\_\_\_\_.

Last week we were reminded \_\_\_\_\_.

Two weeks ago \_\_\_\_\_.

**Today Paul Tells us**

Today Paul continues \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul is tell us that \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul’s words are so true and can be seen \_\_\_\_\_.

On look at the obituary section \_\_\_\_\_.

The good news, however, \_\_\_\_\_.

With confession is \_\_\_\_\_.

Time is short \_\_\_\_\_.

Time is short and so I encourage you \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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

**Creed** ..... Page 174/175

**Prayer of the Church & Offering** ..... Page 175

*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.*

**Offertory** ..... Page 176

*Service of the Sacrament*

**Preface** ..... Page 177

It is truly good, 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 & Prayer of Thanksgiving** ..... Page 178

**Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord** ..... Page 179

**Pax Domini & Agnus Dei** ..... Page 180

**Distribution** ..... Page 181

*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** ..... #730 – *What Is the World to Me*

#856 – *O Christ, Who Called the Twelve*

#685 - *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

**Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord)** ..... Page 181

**Post-Communion Collect and Benediction** ..... Page 183

**Closing Hymn** ..... #412 - *The People That in Darkness Sat*