

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 29, 2023

**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** ..... #905 - Come, Thou Almighty King

**Confession and Absolution** ..... Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ **Matins** ✠ ✠ ✠

Page 219

**Common Antiphon and Venite** ..... Page 220

**Readings from Holy Scripture** ..... Page 221

**Old Testament Reading** ..... Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." <sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Epistle Reading** ..... 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**Holy Gospel** ..... Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Responsory** ..... Page 221

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... #842 - Son of God, Eternal Savior

**The Sermon** ..... God's Election of Unsophisticated People  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

This morning we continue \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul is writing to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paul Calls Us To Think**

We are to think about \_\_\_\_\_.

We are also to think about \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul calls us to think about \_\_\_\_\_.

**God Chose**

Paul says that God chose \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul continues by saying that God chose \_\_\_\_\_.

God chose the things \_\_\_\_\_.

**We Are Saved**

God did \_\_\_\_\_.

Through the means of grace \_\_\_\_\_.

By faith in \_\_\_\_\_.

Where is boasting? \_\_\_\_\_.

We can boast but only \_\_\_\_\_.

Our God is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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**Canticle (Te Deum)** ..... Page 223

**First Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings** .....Page 227

*Our First Fruits and 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.*

**Prayers** ..... Page 227  
**Choral Anthem**

✠ ✠ ✠ **Service of the Sacrament** ✠ ✠ ✠

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

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 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** ..... Page 195

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

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

**Angus 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.** ..... #425 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
#537 – Beautiful Savior  
#567 - Not What These Hands Have Done

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

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

**Salutation & Benedicamus** ..... Page 201

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

**Closing Hymn** ..... #409 - Hail, O Source of Every Blessing