

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The First Sunday in Advent December 3, 2023

Color of the Day: BLUE—the color of the sky—helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope.

Opening Hymn #696 - *O God, My Faithful God*
Confession and Absolution Page 184

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ *Service of the Word* ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Introit Page 186

Ps 25: 1-3; : antiphon: Zech. 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

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.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis (Omitted during Advent). Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Gradual Page 190

Zech 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you,*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Reading Page 190

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia Page 190

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”



Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #332 – *Savior of the Nations, Come*

The Sermon I Always Thank God ~ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

Today is _____.

Paul's Description of What God Has Done

- v. 3 _____.
- v. 4 _____.
- v. 5 _____.
- v. 6 _____.
- v. 7 _____.
- v. 8 _____.
- v. 9 _____.

Our Response of Sanctification

Our response begins with _____.

We respond to _____.

We respond to the _____.

We respond to _____.

We respond to _____.

Paul's words remind us _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

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.

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

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in 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:

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 #334 – *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*
- #348 – *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*
- #508 - *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*