

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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First Sunday in Advent ~ December 1, 2024

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 #348 - *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*
Confession and Absolution. Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 186

Ps. 89: 6, 14-16, 18; antiphon: Zech. 9:9b alt.

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

Who in the skies can be compared | to the LORD?*

Who among the heavenly beings is | like the LORD?

Righteousness and justice are the foundation | of your throne,*
steadfast love and faithfulness go be- | fore you.

Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*
who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,

who exult in your name | all the day*
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

For our shield belongs | to the LORD,*
our king to the Holy One of | Israel.

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.””

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. Page 190

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Choral Anthem

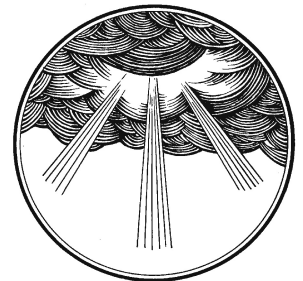
Alleluia & Verse Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven



and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Creed Page 191/192

Children’s Message

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

The Sermon Giving Thanks ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), just want to follow along? Visit Pastor Bogs’ blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Happy New Year. Today is _____.

Paul’s Surprise

Today is the first Sunday _____.

How do we get ourselves ready? _____.

The news that Paul heard _____.

Paul’s desire _____.

Paul Breaks Into Prayer

Paul’s excitement _____.

Paul’s prayer is for _____.

Paul knows that Jesus _____.

This week we begin _____.

Getting Ready

We prepare ourselves _____.

Last week we were encouraged _____.

As we begin a new _____.

Let me conclude _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Offertory Page 192

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 193

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* ✠ ✠ ✠

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, 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:

Sanctus Page 195

Lord’s Prayer Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. Page 197

Agnus Dei & Distribution.Page 198/199

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible. If you have any questions, please speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #351 – *Creator of the Stars of Night*

#333 - *Once He Came in Blessing*

#339 - *Life Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors*

#706 - *Love in Christ Is Strong and Living*

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving. Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus. Page 201

Benediction. Page 202

Closing Hymn #331 - *The Advent of Our King*