

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Fourth Sunday in Advent December 22, 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 #354 - Arise, O Christian People
Confession and Absolution. Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 186
1 Sam. 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.

There is none holy | like the LORD;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.

The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.

The LORD kills and | brings to life,*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.

The LORD makes poor and | makes rich,*
he brings low and | he exalts.

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.

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

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 and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

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
Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Choral Anthem
Alleluia & Verse Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190
Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."



⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Creed Page 191/192

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Sermon Christ Accomplished God’s Will ~ Hebrews 10:5-10

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

Today is _____.

Christ Quotes David’s Words

The reason the Lord gave _____.

When Christ came _____.

Christ came to _____.

The Explanation

Although David was a man of God _____.

For His part _____.

Thus, with His offering Himself _____.

What Does This Mean?

First and foremost _____.

We celebrate _____.

Jesus came to do _____.

Jesus allowed _____.

Hindsight _____.

And so, _____.

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 #398 – Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

#356 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

#934 - My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

#431 - Not All the Blood of Beasts

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving. Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus. Page 201

Benediction. Page 202

Closing Hymn #564 - Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand

Advent Service Schedule

Christmas Eve: December 24 – 6:30 pm candlelight with The Lord’s Supper

Christmas Day: December 25 – 10:00 am with The Lord’s Supper

New Years Eve: December 31 – 6:30 pm with The Lord’s Supper

