

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Christmas Eve

December 24th 2024

Come let us
Adore
Him

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.



Opening Hymn #376 – Once in Royal David's City

Confession and Absolution Page 184

Service of the Word

Introit Page 186

Ps. 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Ps.2:7

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."

The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein.

Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

He will receive blessing | from the LORD*

and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

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.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Gradual Page 190

Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given,*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*

Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things!

Epistle Reading Page 190

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190

Luke 2:1–20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Creed Page 191/192

Hymn of the Day #368 – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

The Sermon **The Shepherd and the Angel Candle**

Text: Luke 2: 8-20

Offertory Page 192

Offering Page 193

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.

Prayer Of The Church Page 193

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 194

P: 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 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 #384 – *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
#380 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
#366 - *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*
#393 - *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation and Benedicamus Page 201

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #363 – *Silent Night, Holy Night*