



Sunday, November 28, 2021
8:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Advent, we invite the congregation to pray more deeply with the season through a few modifications in the liturgy. For the prelude we will observe the beloved tradition of the singing of Christmas carols, and the carol O Come, O Come, Emmanuel will serve as a response to the readings from scripture. Optional elements of the creed and confession are exchanged for a fuller communion prayer, which is the Church's most ancient liturgical affirmation of repentance and faith, and which highlights the seasonal theme of the incarnation.

CAROLS OF THE SEASON

Sung by the congregation.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise Man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him— give my heart.

WELCOME

GREETING

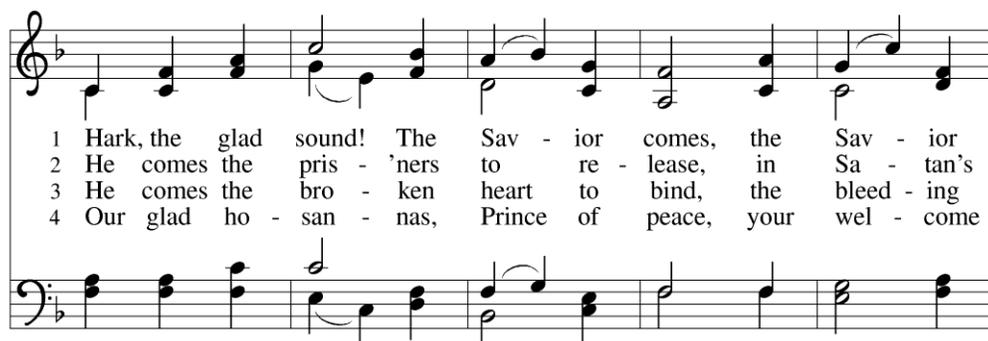
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

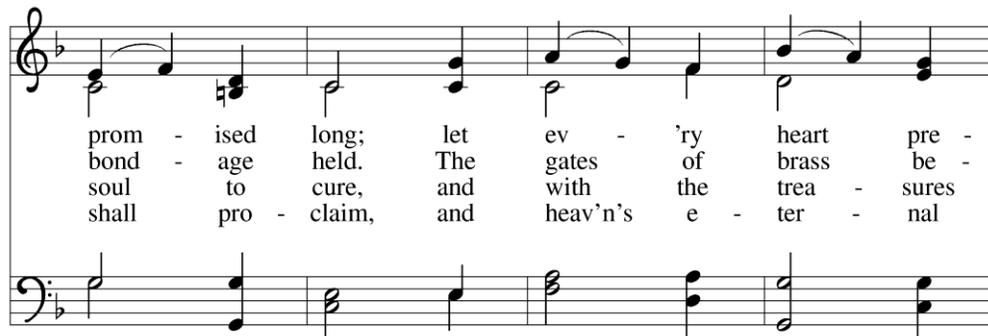
OPENING HYMN: *Hark, the glad sound*

ELW 239

One candle is lighted on the Advent wreath while this hymn is sung.



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Julie

FIRST READING: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from Jeremiah.

14The days are surely coming, says 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation remains seated.

HYMN: **O come, O come, Emmanuel**

ELW 257, vs. 6

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from First Thessalonians.

9How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11Now 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, just as we abound in love for you. 13And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may stand.

HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel

ELW 257, vs. 7

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 25“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already

near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Julie

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*

ELW 435

- 1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Now redemption, long-expected,
comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
See the day of God appear!
- 3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. We especially praise you for the birth of Noah Brunetti, and ask for your care for those dear to us in need, whom we name aloud or silently . . .

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else shall we pray? (*Here worshippers may raise other prayers, aloud or silently, ending each prayer with the words, Hear us, O God, to which the congregation may respond, Your mercy is great.*)

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING

St. Matthew members and friends joyfully offer themselves, their time, and their possessions as a grateful response to God's generosity. Thank you for your continued faithfulness! Financial gifts may be given in person in the offering plate on your way out of church, online at www.stmatthewavon.org or mailed to the church.

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY: *Suite du premier ton*

Dialogue sur les grands jeux

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

This French baroque work has a sublime fierceness, with a suggestion even of threat, that accords well with today's eschatological message. The playful middle section can be felt to have a world-dissolving note, almost a "dance of death." In the context of today's liturgy, the final measures, for full organ, herald the commanding presence of the Lord Christ in all his majesty, human and divine.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

At St. Matthew we welcome all who wish to share in Holy Communion to join us in this sacrament of grace. We invite you to wait to take to hand the pre-filled cup of grape juice and gluten-free wafer after the Lord's Prayer and to open it at the Distribution. Trash cans are available at the exits of the church.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

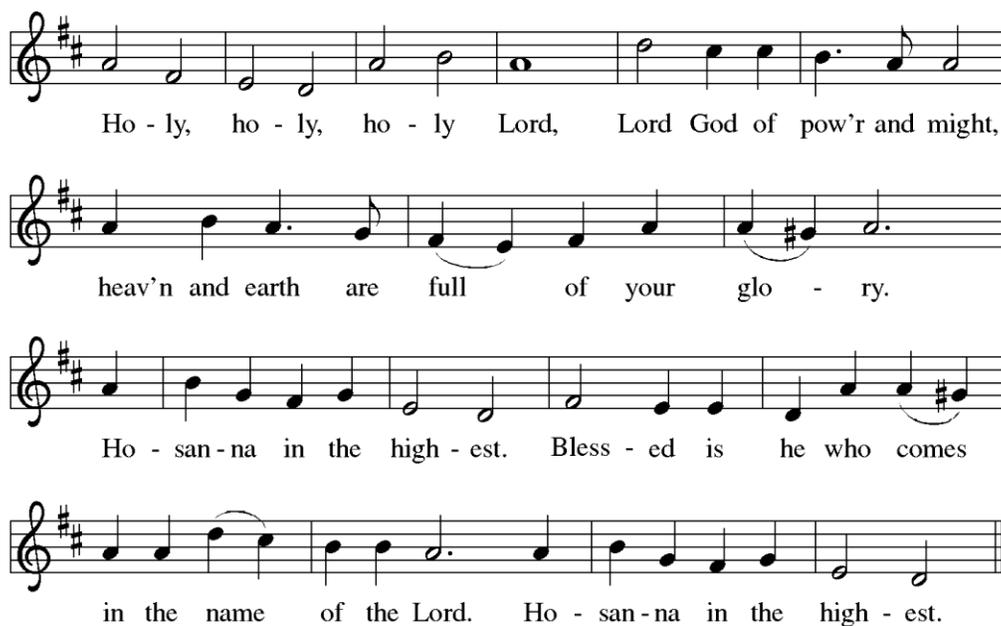
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you, and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

You are invited at this time to peel back the plastic on the top of the cup to reveal the communion wafer and consume it, and then peel back the top of the cup to drink the grape juice.

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope **✝** by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Joy to the world*

ELW 267, vss. 1, 2 & 4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar flowers this morning are given by George Spoering in loving memory of Lisa Spoering.

Worship Leaders:

Lector: Ben Wright
Assisting Minister: Robin Lindquist
Ushers: George Spoering & Kevin Reichler
Livestream: Greg Boyd

Staff:

Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer, Lead Pastor - pastorjulie@stmatthewavon.org
Pastor Brian R. Rajcok, Associate Pastor - pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org
Richard Silbereis, Director of Music - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301
Diane Oates, Church Administrator - office@stmatthewavon.org
Roy Zurell, Sexton - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Visit us on our website: www.stmatthewavon.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday:** 7:00 Confirmation
- Tuesday:** 1:00 Staff Meeting
6:00 Centering Prayer
- Wednesday** 7:00 Mutual Ministry
- Thursday:** 10:00 Bible Study
2:00 Centering Prayer
- Saturday:** 9:00 Yoga + Sharing Circle
- Sunday:** **Second Sunday of Advent**
8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 Adult Forum
11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service

St. Matthew Mission Statement: *St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.*

***In Christ, We Are
Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.***