

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213
December 2nd, 2018

First Sunday in Advent
Theme: The Gift of HOPE
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Services

Prelude
Welcome to Worship

Gathering

Call to Worship (11:00) *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
arr. by Kathleen Wissinger & Jeff Reeves – Godsbells

(Please stand as you are able)

Invocation

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Let us worship God.

Advent Proclamation

P Advent is a time waiting. *(Take a moment of Silence)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community . Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. Tune: Wait for the Lord, 88. Copyright © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé [France] admin. GIA Publ. Inc., Chicago. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-703603.

An Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing and hope.

C **Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.**

P We are people of faith who wait in the darkness of sin and the light of hope. We wait for Christ. Christ has come! Christ is coming! Christ will come again!

C Advent is a time of waiting...

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P Almighty God,

C we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.

P In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing and hope. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C Amen.

Gathering Song

#244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Advent Greeting

P May the hope of this season embrace you with God's grace.

C **And also with you.**

Advent Candle Lighting - The Gift of HOPE

A We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

C **We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

A During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

C **We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

A During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

C **We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

A During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

C **We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

Prayer of the Day for the Advent Season

A Let us pray. This morning we light the first candle which reminds us of the ultimate **hope** that comes through our Savior's birth. In a world where we often get overwhelmed by our circumstances, Advent comes as a gentle whisper offering us **hope** to heal the broken, befriend the lonely, and share the good news of the Gospel. This morning let us begin this Advent season with expectant and believing hearts.

C **Blessed be God forever. Amen.** *(The first Advent candle is lit)*

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called
 Em-man - u - el. God with us, re - veal'd in
 us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

Text & Music: Bob McGee Copyright © 1976 C.A. Music [Division of Christian Artists Corp.] All rights reserved.
 OneLicense.net #A-703603.

Word

(Please be seated)

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 the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

A To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

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

A Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

A Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

C **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

A Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

C **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

A He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

C **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

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** Word of God, word of life.
C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! The Lord Will Come

1. Al - le - u - ia! The Lord will come, the pow'rs of heav'n will shake.
 2. E - ven so, come, O Son of Man! No long - er he - si - tate.

"The Son of the Man comes in the
 Oh, rend the heav - ens and come

clouds. Be watch - ful! Keep a - wake!"
 down; your faith - ful peo - ple wait.

Tune: Chesterfield, CM. Music Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

- P** The holy gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

- P** The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#260 The King Shall Come

(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)

The Nicene Creed

Inside back cover of the Hymnal

Prayers of Intercession

- ☐ Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you—
 for the sustaining goodness of your creation...
 for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...
 for the gifts of relationship with others...
 for the communion of faith in your church...

We pray to the Lord.

- ☑ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- ☐ Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray—
 for those who govern nations of the world...
 for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...
 for all who work for peace and international harmony...
 for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...
 for the church of Jesus Christ in every land...

We pray to the Lord.

- ☑ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- ☐ O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- ☑ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

page 106

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

(8:30)

(11:00)

Air for Advent arr. by Tom Fettke – Senior Choir

Prepare! by Alan Pote – New Generation Choir

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all the gifts to me?
 I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God thank - ful - ly.
 For bread and cup now off - ered here, the gifts of Christ, my King,
 I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I glad - ly bring.

Tune: Forest Green, CMD. Music: English Folk Tune. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

- A** Let us pray, Creator God, you sent your Son, Lord Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin. Creating God, you will send your Son, Lord Jesus Christ, to gather us to our heavenly home.
- C** **Receive these humble offerings, now - signs of our hope, pledges of our service - and lead us, by your Spirit, to live Godly lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal the entire suffering world.

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

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming with righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

page 112 (Traditional Version)

Invitation to Communion

P God fills the hungry with good things.

C **The rich He sends empty away.**

P Come with joy to the feast.

(Please be seated)

(11:00) First Communion for Levi Kirchner

Today we celebrate with Levi Kirchner, who will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time at the 11:00 service. Levi and his family will be invited to come forward and receive first, followed by our traditional communing pattern.

Lamb of God

#195 Lamb of God

(8:30) Communion Anthem

Let Us Break Bread Together
arr. by John Helgen – Senior Choir

Communion Hymn

#248 People, Look East

(Please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Response

P May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's light and grace.

C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we recognize your presence in this holy sacrament. You are here, now. Even as we recognize your presence in Bethlehem's manger. You have come, Lord. Now, inspire us by your presence to hope for your return. We look for you, Lord Jesus, when you come again in power. You are the Lord forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Sending

(Please be seated)

Today's Highlights

For more information on the church's activities, please pick up the bulletin announcements from the Welcome Center, ask an usher or go to our website, www.stmattslutheran.org.

(Please stand as you are able)

Three-Fold Benediction

- P** Believe that God came to us in Jesus Christ, and look for him to come again. May the advent of his coming bring you comfort, hope and joy.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. May your light so shine before others, that they see your works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Dismissal

- A** The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Your presence has blessed our worship service. May you be strengthened by the strong word of God expressed through music and worship today. The peace of the Lord be with you as you go.