

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213
December 9th, 2018

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

Prelude
Welcome to Worship

Gathering

(8:30) Call to Worship

O Come, Emmanuel arr. by Jason Krug
The EmbELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Advent Proclamation

- ☐ 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 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!

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An Order of Confession and Forgiveness

- ☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- ☐ **Amen.**
- ☐ The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing, hope and peace.
- ☐ **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 and peace. 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 peace. 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

#257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [Stanzas 1-4]

Advent Greeting

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

C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting - The Candle of Peace

A On this Advent journey, we see the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

C **We long for PEACE in our world, where we are made whole.**

A As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

C **O Lord, instill PEACE between us that we might grow closer to one another.**

A As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

C **Lord God, give us PEACE that we might heal our relationships.**

A As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

C **Creator God, may your PEACE which surpasses all understanding bring reconciliation to our very souls.**

Prayer of the Day for the Advent Season

- P** Let us pray. O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope, peace, joy, and love. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.
- C** **Amen.** *(The first two candles are lighted)*

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.

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Word

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi [his name meaning “my messenger”] shall prepare a way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

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

Response

Luke 1:68-79

- A** ‘Blessed are you, the Lord God of Israel, for you have looked favorably on your people and redeemed them.
- C** **You have raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of the servant David, as you promised through the mouth of holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**
- A** Thus you have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors O Lord God, remembered your holy covenant, the oath swore to our ancestor Abraham, to

grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness before you all our days.

C **And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare God's ways, to give knowledge of salvation to God's people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

A By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

C **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

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 all wait - ing souls_ to bless.
2. E - ven so, come, re - deem - ing Lord; our sin - ful ways_ to mend.

"Be - hold,___ I send___ my mess - en -
That we___ may know___ your com - fort

ger!" Pre - pare___ the wild - er - ness.
here, Your Ho - ly Spir - it send.

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

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Christopher Manke

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#249 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)

(8:30) The Nicene Creed

Inside back cover of the Hymnal

(11:00) *(Please be seated)*

(11:00) Baptism

page 227

Reeslynn Ann Kust

(11:00) *(Please stand as you are able)*

(11:00) Apostles’ Creed

page 229

(11:00) *(Please be seated)*

(11:00) Congregation’s Welcome to the Baptized

☑ **Reeslynn, we receive you as our own, and as God’s own child. We promise to pray for you, care for you and speak God’s Word to you. We promise to support your parents as they set about the holy task of raising you up in Christ. Welcome to God’s Family!**

(11:00) *(Please stand as you are able)*

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.**

- P** 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.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

page 218

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

(8:30) Musical Offering *Every Valley* by John Ness Beck, Senior Choir
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. – Isaiah 40:4, 5

(11:00) *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* by Kevin McCesney,
 Bells Angels
Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them!
Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.

For Elijah's voice is crying in the desert far and near, bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey, now prepare for God a way; let the valley rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain, let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign; for the glory of the LORD now o'er earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all the gifts to me?'. The second staff begins with 'I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God thank - ful - ly.'. The third staff begins with 'For God's a - bun - dant bless - ing in grat - i - tude we sing.'. The fourth staff begins with 'I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I glad - ly bring.'.

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 God's a - bun - dant bless - ing in grat - i - tude we sing.
 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.

Thanksgiving for the Word page 220

The Lord's Prayer page 221 (Contemporary Version)

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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.**

Sending Song

#257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [Stanzas 5-8]

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.