

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 1st, 2019

First Sunday in Advent
Theme: The Gift of HOPE

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Services

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

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.

Gathering

(Please stand as you are able)

Gathering Song

#257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1-2)

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

- 2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

An Order of Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us. As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Righteous and merciful God,

we confess that we have strayed from your ways and walked our own paths. We fall asleep to the needs around us, yet our anxieties jar us awake. We are bound up in systems of unrighteousness and injustice. Restore your people, O God; renew your creation; and have mercy on us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Listen to what God is saying, speaking **hope** to those who turn their hearts: the night is far gone, the day is near. All who have a fearful heart, be strong, do not be afraid! God comes in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the Spirit of holiness fill you with wisdom and might so that you shall delight in God's ways.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting

Christ comes to lighten our darkness

We wait in hope.

We await the time when wars will cease.

And we pray that swords will be turned into plowshares.

We look forward to the arrival of God's Son, our Prince of Peace.

Come to us, O Prince of Peace.

May this light of ours illuminate this house this Advent.

And may your life illuminate our lives forever!

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan.

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 love throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

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

Advent Response

Christ Be Our Light

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to

peo - ple, light for the world to see.
save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 98 96 & Refrain. Music & Text: Bernadette Farrell. © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-703603.

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of the dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus!

Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord_ Je - sus! Hear your peo- ple as they_ pray,
 For the her- ald's voice a - wakes, us, Calls us to pre - pare the_ way.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! An - xious - ly we wait the_ day!

Tune: Picardy, St. Anne, 87 87 87. Music: French Folk tune, 17th Century. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from the book of Matthew.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.

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

#244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)

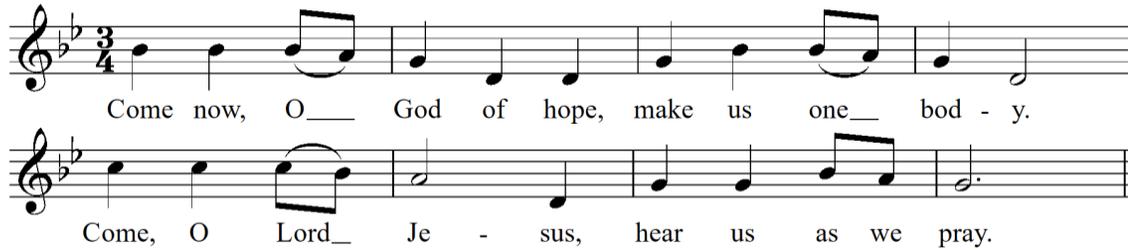
The Nicene Creed

Inside back cover of the Hymnal

Prayers of Intercession

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain **hope**, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

Prayer Response



Come now, O God of hope, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, hear us as we pray.

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Feel free to respond to each petition out loud or in your own hearts.

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, we pray for people we know living in fear of the unknown...

We pray for peace. **Receive our prayers, O God.**

We pray for others and ourselves, who are confused about your will for their lives or for the world...

We pray for clarity. **Receive our prayers, O God.**

We pray for all who feel doubt about your presence and your word...

We pray for trust. **Receive our prayers, O God.**

We pray for all among us who are curious, and those awaiting the future with hopeful anticipation...

We pray for wonder. **Receive our prayers, O God.**

We pray for all we know suffering in the shadows of this season; for all weighed down with heavy burdens; and impacted by trauma...

We pray for wholeness. **Receive our prayers, O God.**

(Other Intercessions may be offered here)

Most of all, when the world longs for you, we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior. **Amen.**

*Meal**(Please be seated)*

Musical Offering

8:30 *The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow*

by Zebulon Highben – Senior Choir

*[Words printed on page 8 of bulletin]*11:00 *Be a Gift to the World in Need* by Alan Pote

New Generation Choir

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory

With Joy, O Lord, Our Gifts We Bring

1. With joy, O Lord, our gifts we bring, A tri - bute
2. Em - ploy, O God, the gifts here shared That in the
to our Ad - vent King, Who comes with - in our midst to
world may be pre - pared The way of Christ, whose name we
dwell As God with us, Em - man - u - el.
bless, Who comes, the Lord our right - eous - ness.

Tune: PUER NOBIS, LM. Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and **hope** as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution

page 108

The Lord's Prayer

page 112 (Traditional Version)

Invitation to Communion

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

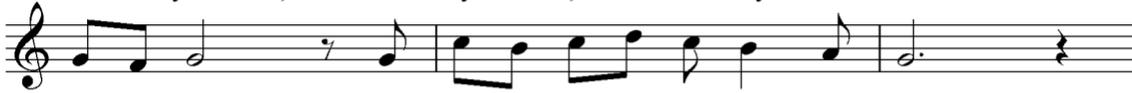
Let us share in the feast of salvation.

*(Please be seated)***Lamb of God**

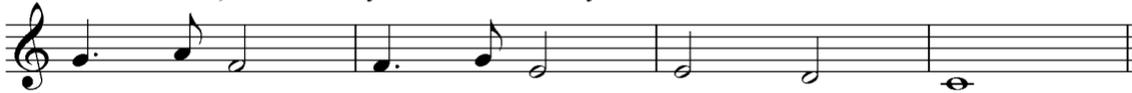
1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
2. Lamb of God, you give us hope as we wait for you: have
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of Jus - tice and peace: have
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love: have



mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

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Communion Anthem

8:30 *What Feast of Love* – Senior Choir

Communion Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us
 yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy

find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
 gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Tune: Hyfrydol, 87 87D. Rowland H. Prichard, 1830. Text: Charles Wesley, 1744.

(Please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,
 strengthen you and keep you in God's love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we
 share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts and send us forth
 to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus
 Christ our Lord.

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)

Blessing

Isaiah says, "*The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.*" May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. The coming of the Lord is near. Prepare the way.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Senior Choir Anthem Words to "The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow"

*The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing.
Prepare, you children here below who are these tidings hearing,
Who are these tidings hearing:*

*Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Their flames so swiftly burning
Reveal the path to hope and peace, the dawn for which you're yearning,
The dawn for which you're yearning.*

*Come forth, you weary, meek and poor! Forget your strife and labor.
Messiah comes to those who toil, bestowing God's own favor;
Bestowing God's own favor.*

*Your king eternal, Lord on high, in humble form and lowly,
Transforms a simple oxen stall into a throne most holy.*

*For Christ shall come and not be slow; his light is now appearing.
Rejoice, you saints on earth below! His reign of love is nearing.
His reign of love is nearing.*