

# **THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Saturday, November 28, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

*Welcome to worship at St. Matthew! To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

*Assisted hearing devices and orders of service are available from the ushers.*

*If you have a prayer request, please submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

*Parents with small children are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

*Thank you for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

**+ CONNECT +**

**OPENING HYMN: “The Advent of Our God”**

**The advent of our God Shall be our theme for prayer;  
Come, let us meet him on the road And place for him prepare.**

**The everlasting Son Incarnate stoops to be,  
Himself the servant’s form puts on To set his people free.**

**Come, Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly king,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And all his scattered saints unite With him on high to reign.**

**Before the dawning day Let sin be put to flight;  
No longer let the law hold sway, But walk in freedom’s light.**

**All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.**

**INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L:** As we bring in a new Church year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would rob us of new life, and remembering our baptism, boldly ask our Savior, Jesus Christ, for forgiveness of our sins.

**C:** **It's starting already, Lord. It is only the first Sunday in Advent, and we are caught up in the pressures and stresses of the holiday season.**

**L:** Usually this is the time of year we are pursued by the temptation to spend our funds, our energy, our spirits, and we feel that there is no peace or rest in the world. But this year is different. We are separated from family. We are facing so many unknowns. We are inconvenienced and burdened in so many ways.

**C:** **Lord of light and peace, shine on us this day. Forgive us when we have so easily succumbed to the anxieties and fears and temptations of the season and the world. Slow us down. Calm our spirits. Give us an awareness that this is the season of waiting and of preparation. Pour peace into our lives and help us to be bearers of peace to others. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name, Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**P:** Jesus is the Light of the world;

**C:** **The light no darkness can overcome.**

**P:** Let your light scatter the darkness

**C:** **And illumine your Church.**

**P:** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors

**C:** **That the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **CANDLELIGHTING SONG: "We Light the Advent Candle"**

**We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.**

**With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard.**

**God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation.**

**We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name, Amen.**

**+ NURTURE +**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 13.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

"But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: "Comfort, Comfort These My People"**

**"Comfort, comfort these my people, Speak of peace!" so says our God.**

**Comfort these who sit in darkness Groaning under sins' dread rod.**

**To my people I proclaim Pardon now in Jesus' name.**

**Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over!"**

**Yes, our sins the Lord will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed.  
All that well deserved his anger He no more will see nor heed.  
We who languished many a day Under guilt now washed away,  
We exchange our pining sadness For his comfort, peace, and gladness!**

**Now the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance, For the kingdom now is here!  
Oh, that warning cry obey, Oh, prepare for God a way,  
Let the valleys rise to meet him, Let the hills bow down to greet him!**

**Straight must be what long was crooked; Make the roughest places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign!  
Here the glory of the Lord Stands so graciously revealed  
That all people see the token That God's word is never broken!**

*("Comfort, Comfort These My People", setting copyright 1981 Richard W. Gieseke, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**MESSAGE:** "Waiting for God to Show Up" – Pastor Bill Hugo

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C:** **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.**

**PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE:

L: It is truly good, 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, who came as the Son of Mary, the Son of God to live and give his life as a ransom to deliver us and the whole world from the judgment of death for our sins. There with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

## SANCTUS:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san - na. 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.

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## MEDITATION ON THE AGNUS DEI

## AGNUS DEI:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **MEDITATION ON THE BENEDICTION**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING HYMN: "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"**

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his Passion Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

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