

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Saturday, January 2, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – 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 large print 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: “Once in Royal David’s City”

**Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and low Lived our Savior long ago.**

**But our eyes in truth should see him Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav’n above,
As he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars his children, crowned, All in white, his praise will sound!**

(“Once in Royal David’s City”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

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.

OPENING SENTENCES:

L: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C: And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

C: Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

L: I do not turn aside from your just decrees, for you have taught me.

C: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

L: Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

C: We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let us confess our sinfulness in the presence of God and one another. *(Silence for self examination)*

C: Have mercy on us, Lord. In Your compassion forgive our sins; those we know and those we do not know; things we have done and things left undone. Strengthen and renew us by Your Spirit so that we may serve you in how we serve our neighbor, faithfully honoring and glorifying Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "Robe of Righteousness"

I am covered over with the robe of righteousness That Jesus gives to me (gives to me)

I am covered over with the precious blood of Jesus And He lives in me (lives in me)

Oh what a joy it is to know my Heavenly Father loves me so; He gives to me my Jesus.

When He looks at me He sees not what I used to be But He sees Jesus. *(Repeat song)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Father God, you sent your Son to accomplish your will for our salvation. In Him, you made us holy and blameless in your sight. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of all sin through the riches of your grace. In Him you call us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received, with all humility, gentleness and patience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Kings 3:4-15

The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. "Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in

place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

L: The Word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE: "Into My Heart"

("Into My Heart" by Harry D. Clarke, copyright 1924, 1952 Hope Publishing Company, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

L: The Word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter two.
 C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began

looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Within the Father's House"

**Within the Father's house The Son has found his home,
And to his temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.**

**The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at his gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.**

**Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil which hides Incarnate God below.**

**The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.**

**Lord, enter now our souls And teach us by your grace
Each dim revealing of yourself With loving awe to trace.**

**Till we behold your face And know as we are known
You, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.**

MESSAGE – Pastor Keith Brutlag

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream, dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Saturday:

Lay Ministers: Jim Geslin & Larry Betzold

Sunday:

Lay Ministers: Lisa Neaderhiser & Bob Nehring

Ushers: Nelson Team

Power Point: Caitlin Kyseth

Acolyte: Caitlin Kyseth

Lector: Cheryl Fristad