

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 26, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, 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 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 +

### 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: Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

C: **A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia!**

L: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

C: **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

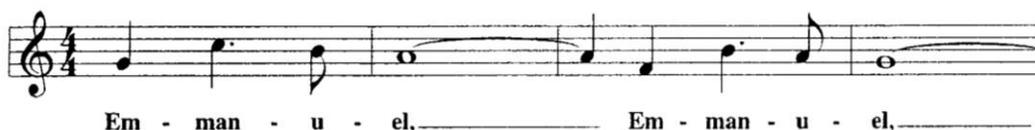
L: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

L: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;

C: **My soul also, which you have redeemed.**

### OPENING MEDLEY: “Emmanuel” & “Jesus, Name Above All Names”



His name is called Em - man - u - el;

God with us, re - vealed in us;

His name is called Em - man - u - el.

*("Emmanuel", by Bob McGee, copyright 1976 C. A. Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

Je - sus, name a - bove all names; beau - ti - ful

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em -

man - u - el, God is with us; bless - ed Re -

deem - er, Liv - ing Word.

**Jesus, loving shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

**Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords.  
The Way, the Truth, and the Life, Mighty Creator, my Savior and Friend.**

*("Jesus, Name Above All Names", copyright 1978 Maranatha! Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

### **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

- L:** Our God is indeed the Way, the Truth and the Life. He truly is our Friend and Savior. And we need that, all of it. Let's enter into His presence now confessing our need for Him.
- C:** **Lord Jesus, you have blessed our lives and made us your own. We have failed to respond to your grace in ways that are worthy of all of you have done for us.**
- L:** You have said the most important commandment is to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- C:** **And we haven't done that.**

L: You have said the second most important commandment is to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

C: **And we haven't done that either.**

L: But you have promised, Lord, that if we confess our sins, you will forgive and make us clean.

C: **So we confess, Lord, and look confidently to you for forgiveness, not because we deserve it, but because Jesus won it for us with His perfect life and innocent death. And we ask for it in His name, Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

P: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;

C: **My soul also, which you have redeemed.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE: "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"**

**Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to make our hearts rejoice, His own Son has given.**

**To this place of fears he came, Servant, healer, mender;  
Through his death we heaven claim, There to reign in splendor.**

**We are rich, for he was poor; Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.**

**Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Oh, be ever near us.  
Be our joy throughout each year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Today, Lord, we stand with Isaiah and delight in you. We stand with Paul and celebrate the fullness of time. We stand with Simeon and Anna and we rejoice in you keeping your promise to send a Savior. Thank you, Lord, for putting us in this time and place. Empower us to be and do all that you are calling us to be and do. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**+ NURTURE +**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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!**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Let All Together Praise Our God"**

**Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne;**

**Today he opens heav'n again To give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.**

**The Father sends him from his throne To be an infant small**

**And lie here poorly manged now In this cold, dismal stall, In this cold, dismal stall.**

**Within an earthborn form he hides His all-creating light;**

**To serve us all he humbly cloaks The splendor of his might, The splendor of his might.**

**He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,**

**And in return gives us his realm, His glory, and his name, His glory and his name.**

**He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!**

**How strong the tender Christ child's love! No truer friend than he, No truer friend than he.**

**He is the key and he the door To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.**

**Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise you evermore.**

*("Let All Together Praise Our God", text copyright 1969 Concordia Publishing House, setting copyright 1953 Wurttembergisches Choralbuch, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**MESSAGE:** "Worth the Wait" – 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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.**

**Angels sang about his birth, Wise Men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!**

*("Gentle Mary Laid Her Child", text copyright 1956, 1958 Gordon V. Thompson Limited, used by permission of Carl Fischer, Inc. New York; setting copyright 1969 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

+ + +

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

***Saturday:***

**Lay Minister:** Larry Betzold

***Sunday:***

**Lay Minister:** Louise Roberts

**Ushers:** Nelson Team

**Altar Guild:** Pat & Duane Rosenberg

**Lector:** Bob Lundholm