Second Sunday after Epiphany January 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with



our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

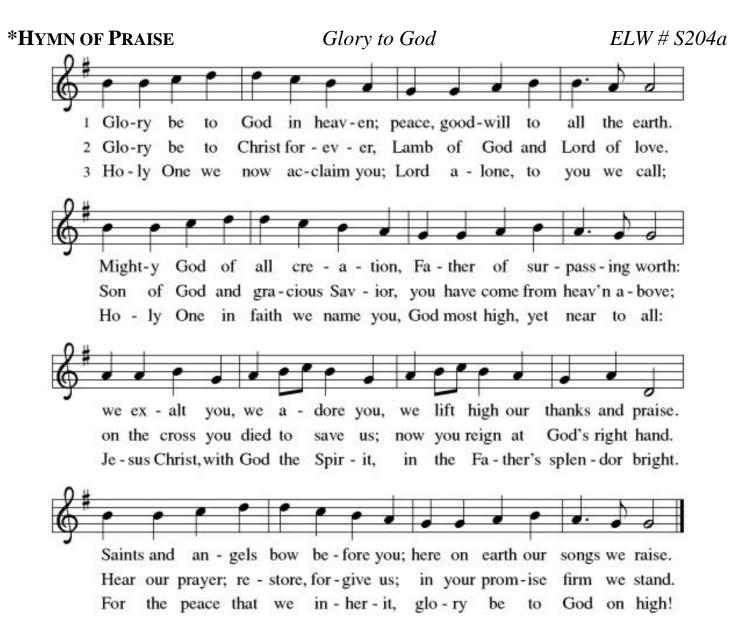
*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. *C:* Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- P: God, our rock and refuge,
- C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.
- P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! ELW # 308

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C:* And also with you.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."

So he went and lay down. ^{6The} Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

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

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (read responsively)

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether. ⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;

my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

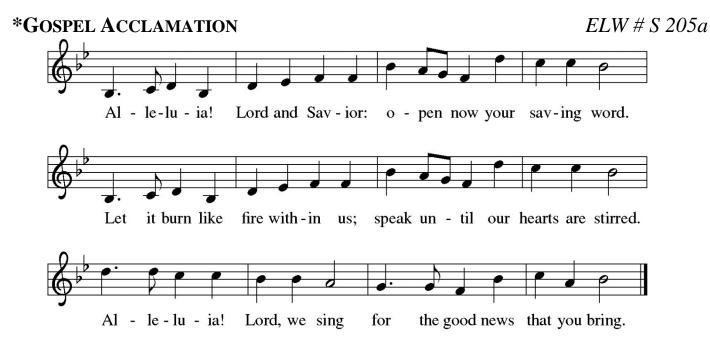
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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



*Gospel: John 1:43-51 The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY		Pastor Traci
*HYMN OF THE DAY	Here I Am, Lord	ELW # 574

*APOSTLES' CREED

- *P*: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 - I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 - I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- *A:* As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- *A:* Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A*: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints. God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. *C:* Amen.

***THE PEACE**

- *P*: The peace of the LORD be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

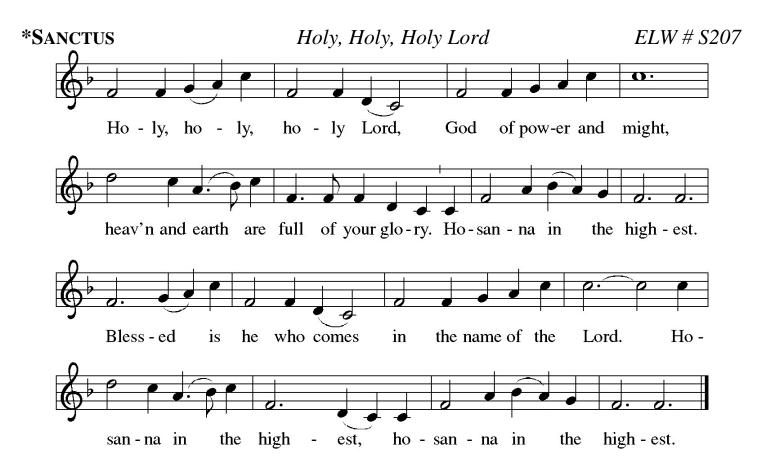
P: The Lord be with you.

- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

- *P*: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.
- And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

- his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
- By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.
- Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: Amen.

*LORD'S 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



*INVITATION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Feast of Love

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. *C*: Amen.

*SENDING SONG I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW # 815

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in honor of our children Douglas, Daniel and Laurie and families from Dennis and Margie Smith.

Serving God and Us		
Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew		
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott		
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree		
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings		
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka		
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck		
Our Sexton – Phil Claar		
Our Assisting Minister – Lottie Ebersole		
Our Lector – Ben and Gabby Decker		
Our Acolyte – Gavin Kuster		
Our Usher – Ed Kreider		
Our Altar Guild – Jane Fagans		
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster		
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner		
First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"		

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **This Week Events Today** – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St., 9:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred

Brandenberg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, LJ Gilbert, Brenda Harley & Family, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).



The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price-\$40.00.

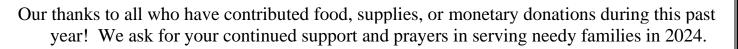
Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on



Thursday January 18 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. If you would like to help, please let Elaine Buchart know for any of these dates.

January items most needed are: Sunny D—40 0z Drink, Ravioli, Pasta Sides, Personal Items (Toothpaste), Cleaning Supplies (Detergent)



Linda K. Smith

Church Messenger

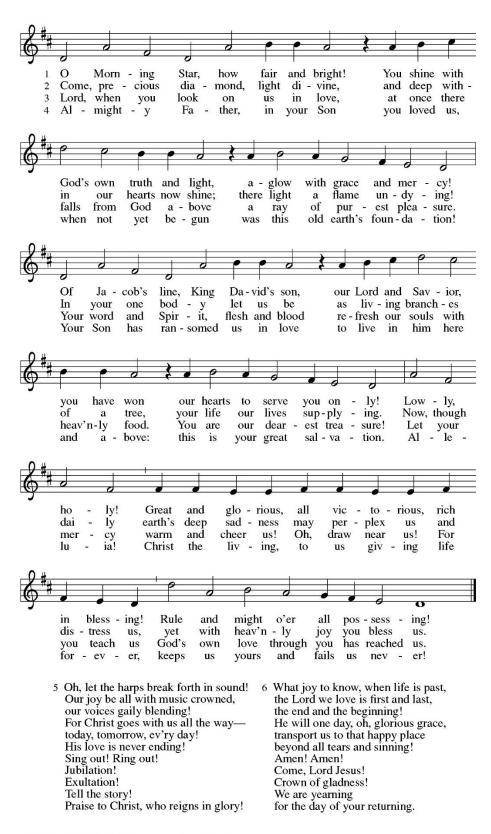
The January 2024 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



Please speak with Pastor Traci if you have any interest in attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

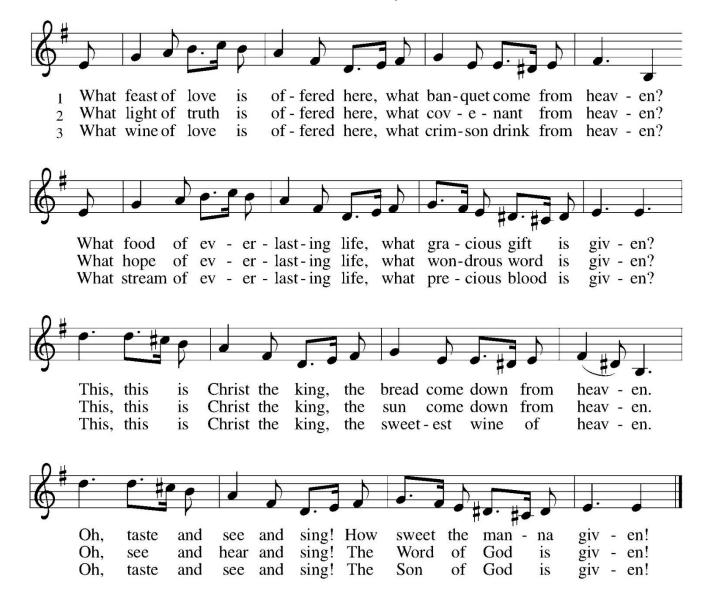
Here I Am, Lord

ELW # 574



Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration