

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



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!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Gather Us In

ELW # 532

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

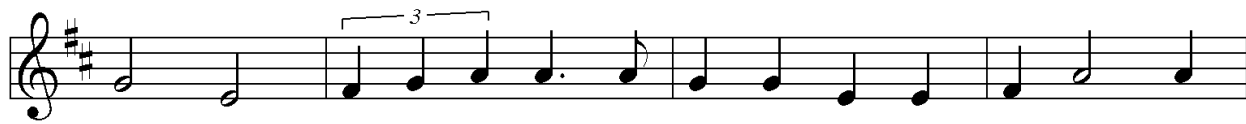
Glory to God



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



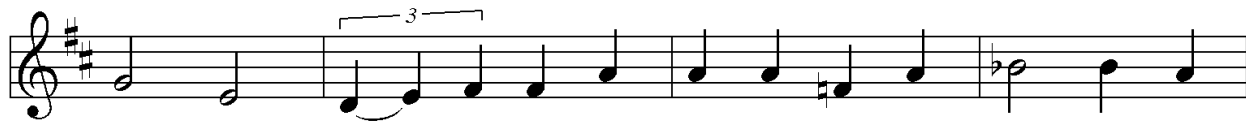
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



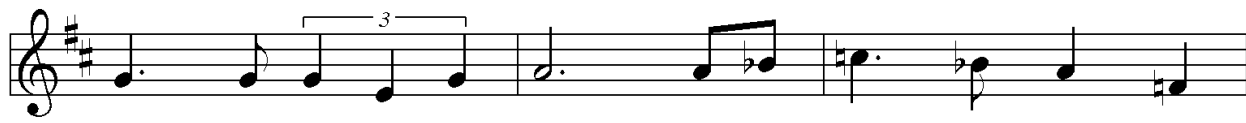
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

C Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I
II For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

C Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

PSALM 15 (*read responsively*)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: *Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

- ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
- ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

HOMILY

Rev. Ralph Hamer

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

God, Bless the Hands

ACS # 1022



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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***The Apostles' CREED**

A: 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: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God



☞ 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, grant us peace.

INVITATION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

Note: White grape juice is available in the cups in the center of the trays.

*The Usher will invite the lectern side, then the piano side,
then the back section forward for communion.*

*COMMUNION HYMN

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW # 479

BLESSING

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

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded.

**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or
live-streamed on social media.**

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in memory of our father, Donald Smith, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday today, given by his Family.

Altar Flowers: You can sponsor Altar Flowers by using the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$40.00 and there are still open Sundays.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith
Our Organist – Mary Nelson
Our Missionary Family – On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson
Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orceck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Lector – Jean Sinal
Our Acolyte – Norah Kuster
Our Assisting Minister – Elaine Smith
Our Altar Guild – Tonya Walter
Our Usher – Tina Harclerode
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”

**All Committees should have their Goal Setting meeting by
Friday, February 3, 2023.**

All 2023 Goals should be given to Lori in the Church Office by
Monday, February 13, 2023.

Please welcome our guest preacher, The Rev. Ralph Hamer, today.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Salem United Church of Christ, along with the regular volunteers, will be assisting with the food distribution on Thursdays, February 2 and February 16 from 9:00 until 11:00a.m.

The Items most needed are: Sunny D Drink, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken and Paper Towels.

Offering Statements: *ALL* 2022 Offering Statements are now located in the box in the Narthex.

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413

Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lori Tremmel – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Worship Service Sunday in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.

Christian Ed Meeting, via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Knotty Ladies, Quilt Room 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Bonnie Brobst, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Sheryl Confeit, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Lindsey Garrison, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, Todd Slick, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, John Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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*COMMUNION HYMN

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW # 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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