

Worship in the Home

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

November 29, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW # 438



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, he one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son-of-Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then the Son-of-Man will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like someone going on a journey, who leaving home and putting the slaves in charge of their own work, commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the lord of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else coming suddenly, the lord may find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Reflection

Isaiah gives us words for the longings that are present in all the world: “O God, would that you would tear open the heavens and come down!” We are rightly afraid that our sins have delayed and hidden God’s coming to us with healing and hope. We know ourselves to be held by our iniquity rather than held by God, the merciful potter. But in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus joins us in not knowing when the day of healing will be. And in the very next chapter, the Gospel begins to tell of his death. We are to keep awake, like a doorkeeper watching for the return of the homeowner. Then the amazing thing happens. God does come: at evening in the supper when Jesus gives himself away and prays in the garden; at midnight when he is arrested; at cockcrow when he is denied; at dawn when he begins to be taken to the cross; and yet again at dawn when the women at the door of the tomb discover that he is risen. In Mark’s Gospel the heavens have been torn open and God has come among all the world’s suffering. Christ is with us still. Forgiven and strengthened by that word, as Paul says, we may wait for his full revealing. We are called to be doorkeepers still watching on behalf of all the needy world and yet bearing witness to God’s present mercy.



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

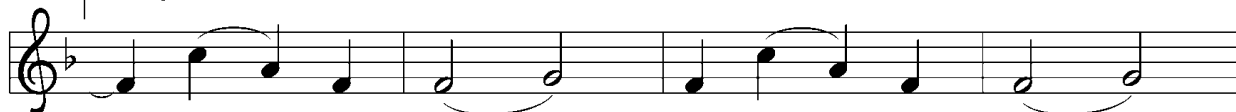


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Prayers of Intercession

On this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God comes quickly to this weary world.

Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, both our congregation and assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace all who minister in the church. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild, farmed, or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. We pray especially for those we name before you now . . . Shape us to become your arms of mercy. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Healer of our every ill, save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. Receive now our private prayers. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to help us.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of COVID-19; and for those we name here before you. . . . At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence. Stir up your strength, O God. **Come to save us.**

Eternal Father, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, and who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless our Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill us with love, the unexpected Spirit guide our journey, + now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For those worshipping in real time from home, join us for Fellowship on Zoom immediately following the service:

596-621-1441, passcode 8675309

Advent Boxes will be available today, November 29th from 10AM to 11AM at the church—use the Maple Street doors. If you can't pick up a box but want one delivered, contact the church no later than Wednesday. Advent devotions will be Thursdays at 7PM.

St. Matthew Masks Are Here!

Contact us to have one sent or delivered to you. Help spread the Good News, not the virus, and love your neighbors when you need to be out in public. (Free will contributions are gladly accepted.)



Schedule **Meetings**

Tuesday, December 1: 6 PM Worship & Music via Zoom

Online Worship

Sunday: 9 AM Livestream ONLY

Monday & Friday: 9 AM posted Hymn Devotions

Tuesday & Thursday: 9 AM & 9 PM Morning & Night Prayer

Wednesday: 7 PM Holden Evening Prayer on Zoom

Thursday: 7 PM Advent Devotions on Zoom.

Online Study

Tuesday — Friday: Midday Kids' Devotions

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the The Tremmel Family upon the death of their dear friend, Jackie Michaels and also the death of Betty Tipton, Joey's aunt.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

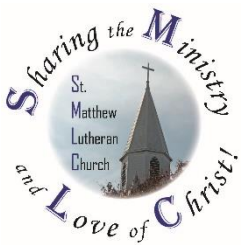
Prayer Concerns:, John Aljets, Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Barry Brumbaugh, Kelly Burk, Diane Cappel, Todd Chipperfield, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Melissa Fetzer, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Amy Haffling, Erika Hallam, Betty Helsel, Gene Henry, Dan Hershberger, Jeff Hoenstine, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Rick McIntyre, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Nathan, Jim Negley, Zowe Orczeck, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Kaleb Sollenberger, Barbara Smith, Connie Smith, Luther Steele, Michael Sutton, Wyatt Sweinhart, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Ashley Zanfino, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Basic Training for the Army: Nathan Smith

Our "Annual Commitment Card"

Please complete the card below and return in the offering plate or to the church office by November 29, 2020.



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Stewardship Commitment Card 2021

Mission in the Parish \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly)
(Current Expense)

Mission in the World \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one
(Benevolence)

Ventures in Faith \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

Building Fund \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

Total Giving \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

(Please circle one) → Weekly or Monthly

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Stewardship Commitment Card 2021	
Mission in the Parish \$ _____	(Current Expense)
Mission in the World \$ _____	(Benevolence)
Ventures in Faith \$ _____	
Building Fund \$ _____	
Total Giving \$ _____	
KEEP THIS SECTION FOR YOUR RECORDS	



2021 Offering Envelopes

Everyone who is a confirmed member or is a visitor and has requested envelopes receives Offering Envelopes. Included in this "Bulletin" is a NEW Time and Talent Sheet and a Commitment Card for 2021.

Electronic Offerings: If you would like to have funds given directly from your savings or checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

If you already give Electronically and would like to increase your offerings, checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

Time and Talent sheets from previous years are deleted and a NEW TIME & TALENT SHEET needs to be completed EVERY YEAR.

January 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed in December 2020 to your homes.

The other options for offering or tithing are below:

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Offering Envelopes: These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

❖ if you would like to use the "Simply Giving" on-line program of automatic bank drafts from your checking account. (*Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori.*)

Giving Online: Visit the church website at "www.stmatthewlc.com"

- 1) Click on the "**Give**" button, (on the top white banner)
- 2) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Mobile Giving:

- 1) Visit "**Play Store on your mobile device**"
- 2) Find the "**Vanco Payment**" app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the "**Install**" button
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one-time contribution or recurring contributions.





Dear Ministry Leader & Partner,

As the Christmas season gets closer, we begin to set our minds on things like peace, love, and joy. But we know that not everyone in our community experiences these things, especially in these uncertain and trying times. For some, the holidays bring a reminder of grief, depression, loss, and desperate need.

Among the Martinsburg Churches a collective vision is to impact the lives of those around us, letting all that we do be done in love (I Corinthians 16:14), we believe direct involvement in the community is extremely important. It is our hope that we can count on your support as we gear up for our annual “Cove Christmas Love” event, which reaches out to families in need during the holiday season. As a part of our mission, we distribute toys, grocery store gift cards and other items to area families with children under the age of 16. By asking your congregation to stand behind this project and provide donations of gift cards, new toys, as well as monetary donations, you can help us in our mission to give every child a Merry Christmas, one gift at a time.

Donations may be mailed in, or pickup arrangements may be made and the deadline is December 8th.

On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for any consideration you may give to our cause!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chris Garretson, 210 N. Wall Street, Martinsburg PA 16662

Pastor, Memorial Church of the Brethren Office (814)793-2422

Coordinator, Cove Christmas Love, Mobile (814)254-8328, Martinsburg

Association of Area Churches Email: PastorChrisG@outlook.com

MITTEN COLLECTION “BOX”

November 29, 2020

Please drop off (in the mail slot by the Maple St. Entrance) school-age children’s mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs or socks to be placed in the Mitten Box from November 22nd until December 20th. These will be distributed by the school nurse at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for needy children. Donations of money can be given by mailing to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and in the memo line write “*Mitten BOX*”, and the money will be used to purchase needed items. *Let’s help children have a warmer winter!*

Committees Need Volunteers

Age: 18 – 100 years old

Christian Ed. Committee – Needs Volunteer - responsible for enlightening and overseeing our religious education among our youth and adults.

Evangelism Committee – Needs Volunteer - responsible for conducting the meetings and overseeing the activities of connecting our members and fellow neighbors.

Nominating Committee – Needs Volunteers (2) - responsible for the new slate of members for Council each year. Usually, meets once in October and November.

If you were thinking that chairing a committee is a lot of work; it's not. Responsibilities of chairing a committee, means that you oversee your committee members and attend Council Meetings once a month. Some committees meet once a month, some just once every quarter or once or twice a year.

Please call Sheena Tremmel at 515-2962 to volunteer your **Time** to God. Or you may talk to one of the committee members:

Shelley Clinich John Lear Linda Smith Peggy Steinfurth



Announcing our 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting is set for Sunday, December 13th at the conclusion of the Worship Services (9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.) and Wednesday, December 16 (6:30 p.m.). The agenda includes: adopting the 2021 Proposed Budget, which is enclosed with this Messenger, and election of the 2021 Council Members.

President Melissa Fetzer (2nd term)

Vice President **Need Candidate**

Council Secretary Elaine Smith (2nd term)

Christian Ed. **Need Candidate**

Evangelism **Need Candidate**

Stewardship Greg Haffling

Property Ed Kreider (1st term)

NOTE: If, after reviewing the budget and the recommendations for Ventures in Faith and Special Envelopes, you have questions or concerns, please contact Jim Barley by phone (814-793-4623) or by email (jimbarley@gmail.com).

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Jacob Orczeck

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminary*”

Readings for the Week:

Monday (Andrew, Apostle) John 1:35-42. **Tuesday** Revelation 18:1-10.

Wednesday Micah 5:1-5a. **Thursday** Psalm (commemoration of Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552) Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13. **Friday** (commemoration of John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, c. 749) Jeremiah 1:4-10. **Saturday** Ezekiel 36:24-28. **Second Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342) Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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