

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For us Jesus is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

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Pastor Christian McMullan  
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director  
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania  
610-458-5675  
[www.stmatthews-church.org](http://www.stmatthews-church.org)

## WELCOME

Please stand

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from selfishness,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in your timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own mercy, favor, and love.

† You are forgiven and freed,  
Saved and made whole by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**C: Frustrated brother see how he's tried to  
Light his own candle some other way  
See now your sister she's been robbed and lied to  
Still holds a candle without a flame**

### **Litany**

A: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

**C: Prepare us for your arrival.**

A: We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows.

**C: Prepare us for your arrival.**

A: We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.

**C: Prepare us for your arrival.**

A: We get ready for God to come close, by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.

**C: Prepare us for your arrival.**

A: With the lighting of these candles, let us welcome Christ's Spirit whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Let us pray,

*Light two candles.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

**C: So carry your candle run to the darkness  
Seek out the lonely the tired and worn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: Stir up your power, O Holy Spirit, and come. Prepare our hearts for the way of God's only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A: A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the eleventh chapter.

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SECOND READING**

**Romans 15:4-13**

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the fifteenth chapter.

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## Christ Be Our Light ELW 715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

## MESSAGE

Please stand

## HYMN

### Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## THE PRAYERS

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence. After each intercession, the response is sung:*

**P and C: Peace on earth, peace on earth**

**Lord, hear our pray'r, your peace on earth**

**Peace on earth, peace on earth**

**Lord, hear our pray'r, your peace on earth**

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, God-with-us Emmanuel.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Nourishing God,  
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your coming kingdom.

**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 God thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, death, and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to heal all the suffering world,  
and embody your love fully.

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 birth, life, death and resurrection,

we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

**C: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:

strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the joy of your Son.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy church,

both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

**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**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share your promises,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING**

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
grant you patience in waiting,  
and peace in the darkness,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be

## Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**St. Matthew's Staff**

Pastor Christian McMullan cmcmullan71@gmail.com

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director worship@stmatthews-church.org

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785

Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381

Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675

Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator 610-458-8121