

FIRST READING. Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
‘Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

GOSPEL. Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”
Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Sunday, December 11, 2022

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Advent

As we enter Advent, the Season of Hope, you will notice that greenery is placed on the altar to the Glory of God, in preparation for the coming Christmas fulfillment. Our worship order is brief and simple as we “make room” for the Christ-child.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran



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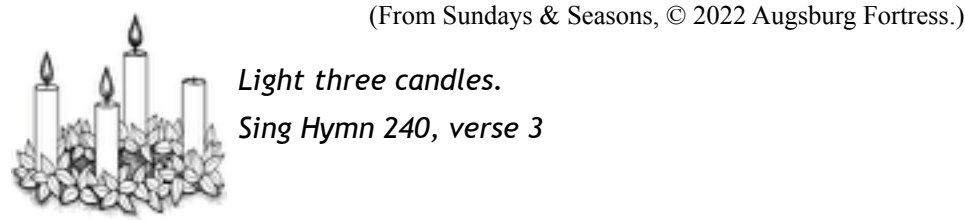
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Lighting the Advent Wreath
Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. Amen.



Psalm 146 Tune: 490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, | **Once for ev'ry sinner slain.**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life.

Thousand thousand saints attending | **Swell the triumph of his train.**

Do not put your trust in rulers; no human being can save you. When they breathe their last, they return to the dust; on that day their plans come to an end.

Alleluia! Alleluia! | **Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them. He always keeps his promises.

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, | **High on thine eternal throne.**

The Lord executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry; he sets the prisoners free. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Savior, take the pow'r and glory, | **Claim the kingdom for thine own.**

The Lord loves the righteous. He watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

Alleluia! Alleluia! | Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Dates to Remember

Dec 15	5:00 p.m. - Christmas Dinner at the Rex Hotel;
Dec 24	5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Hymn Mass service at St. Matthew's
Dec 25	11:00 a.m. - Christmas Day worship with Lessons and Carols

FINANCIAL UPDATE:
We appreciate your faithful giving throughout this past year. At the end of November our finances are in a deficit position, however we are hopeful that your continued generosity will decrease the shortfall so that we can enter 2023 financially stable. To receive a 2022 income tax receipt for income tax purposes from the church, all donations must be received, or post marked, by December 31, 2022. God bless everyone in supporting the ministry of St. Matthew's!

2023 Offering Envelopes - In an effort to reduce our waste we did not order new envelopes for 2023. Please use unused envelopes from previous years if you have them. We also have many older sets available. Please ask Jennifer if you would like a full box.

All types of food donations are welcome at Open Arms Mission. OAM Donation focus for December: **Kraft Dinner**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Prelude and Announcements
GATHERING
Kyrie (from Service of the Word).. Page 213
Lighting of the Advent Wreath prayer
Advent Candle Hymn240, v 3
Gathering Song263 Savior of the Nations, Come

WORD
First ReadingIsaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146Printed in bulletin
Gospel AcclamationPage 216
"Glory to you, O Lord."
Gospel Matthew 11:2-11
"Praise to you, O Christ."
Special Music....."Mary Did You Know",
by Beth Armitage

Sermon
Hymn of the Day .726 Light Dawns on a Weary World

Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response "hear our prayer."
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL
Offering Prayer
Great Thanksgiving (spoken) ...Page 107
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's PrayerPage 112
Communion
"Lamb of God..."Page 112
Communion Hymns241, 266
Prayer after Communion

SENDING
Blessing
Sending Song248 People, Look East
Dismissal: Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.