

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

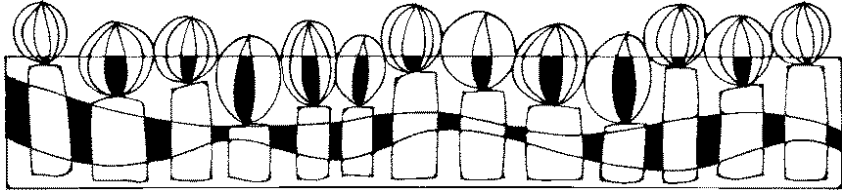
How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”



Sunday December 1, 2024 @ 11:00 am

“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. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

Order of Worship Today’s Order of Worship and hymns are both located in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Greenery 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.

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

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Psalm # 25:1-10 Hymn Tune **ELW # 257** O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Melody Veni Emmanuel 88 88 88

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. I trust you, God, to make me whole.

Let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Show me, O Lord, the way to go; Teach me your righteous paths to know.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I always trust in you.

In steadfast love remember me. Your paths of goodness let me see.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions. According to your steadfast love remember me for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. I trust you, God, to make me whole.

Because the Lord is righteous and good, he teaches sinners the path they should follow. He leads the humble in the right way and teaches them his will.

Show me, O Lord, the way to go; Teach me your righteous paths to know.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

In steadfast love remember me. Your paths of goodness let me see.

Upcoming Dates and Things to Remember

Advent is about the “coming days”. God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David”. The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints”. Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man”. With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper. From *Sundays & Seasons, copyright @2021 Augsburg Fortress*.

Social Ministry Christmas Giving:

St.Matthew’s Lutheran Women is inviting all ladies to our Christmas Luncheon!
Tuesday, December 3, @ 11:30 am
Fireside Restaurant, 153 Southworth St.N, Welland
For reservations contact Anna Bosak, 905- 732-4807 by Monday, December 2.
Come and bring a friend!

Please take a copy of our November newsletter to friends who don’t have email.

Sunday December 8th – Come celebrate the season of Advent with us at a complementary “*Afternoon Tea*” (including scones, sandwiches and desserts) following service. Please reply by email to Rona at stmatts@cogeco.net if you are able to attend.

Church Council and Congregational Dinner Monday December 9th at 6 pm at M.T. Bellies. Signup sheet is at the back of the Church.

Sunday December 15th- Please join us in welcoming the Acaciawood Trio to be performing during our worship service. Acaciawood is a Niagara-based, acoustic-inspired trio with a passion for music and love for people. Following the service, we will be hosting a complimentary festive turkey lunch. If you are planning to attend the lunch, please reply by email to Rona at stmatts@cogeco.net. There is no cost to attend this very special event.

If you would like to donate to our Christmas monetary gifts for our congregational members in need, please use your regular envelope and mark it Social Ministry. Please give your donation by Sunday, December the 15th and, if you have any questions, contact Carole McLeod.

Tuesday December 24th – Christmas Eve Service 7pm,
Wednesday December 25th – Christmas Day Service 11am.

Next Church Council Meeting is Sunday January 19th, after the Service.

AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, after the Church Service.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 4 Page 203

GATHERING

Hymn.....**ELW # 727** Lord Christ, When First
You Came to Earth
Silent Reflection of the Season
Prayer for Lighting of the Advent Candle (insert)
Kyrie.....Page 213
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10... ..Printed in Bulletin
Second Reading...1 Thessalonians 3:19-23
Gospel Acclamation.....Page 151
“**Alleluia-Alleluia**”
Gospel.....Luke 21:25-36
“**Praise to you, O Christ.**”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 246** Hark! A Thrilling Voice
is Sounding!
Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving.....ELW.....Page 152
Holy,Holy,Holy.....ELW.....Page 153
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer.....ELW....Page 154
O Lamb of God.....ELW.....Page 154
Communion Hymns..**ELW # 528,758 & 435**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 538**
The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
DismissalELW....Page 222
Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
“**Thanks be to God**”