

FIRST READING. *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10* 1 All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

SECOND READING. *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a* 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31a But strive for the greater gifts.

GOSPEL. *Luke 4:14-21* 14 Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” 20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



Sunday January 26, 2025

“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.

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

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

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746
email: stmatts@cogeco.net • website: stmatthewswelland.com



Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Emailbartsterc@gmail.com
Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk
Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskis

Psalm 19

1 *The heavens declare the glo-ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.*

2 ***One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.***

3 *Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,*

4 ***their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to
the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.***

5 *It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.*

6 ***It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and
runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.***

7 *The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re-vives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the
simple.*

8 ***The statutes of the Lord are just and re-joyce the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to
the eyes.***

9 *The fear of the Lord is clean and en-dures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*

10 ***More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine
gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.***

11 *By them also is your ser-vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.*

12 ***Who can detect one’s own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.***

13 *Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them
not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and
innocent of a great offense.*

14 ***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my
redeemer.***

Offering Prayer

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

Upcoming Dates & Things to Remember

Our Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025, after the Church Service. A light lunch will be provided, and the newly elected Church Council will meet briefly after the AGM.



GATHERING
Gathering Hymn..... **ELW # 314**
Arise, Your Light Has Come!
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First Reading.....Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm **19** Printed in Bulletin
Second Reading1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Gospel Acclamation and Responses
ELW Page 151
“Alleluia, Lord to Whom shall we go?”
Gospel..... Luke 4:14-21
Sermon
Hymn of the Day..... **ELW # 843**
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
Prayers of Intercession
“Hear our prayer.”
Sharing the Peace

MEAL
Offering PrayerPrinted in Bulletin
Great Thanksgiving.....ELW Page 152
Holy, Holy, HolyELW Page 153
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s PrayerELW Page 154
“Lamb of God”ELW Page 154
Communion Hymns **ELW # 496 & 715**
Prayer after Communion

SENDING
Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn..... **ELW # 866**
We Are Marching in the Light
Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.
“Thanks be to God”