

FIRST READING. Isaiah 60:1-6 The Ingathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SECOND READING. Ephesians 3:1-12 Paul’s Ministry to the Gentiles

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL. Matthew 2:1-12 The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road

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The Epiphany of our Lord



Sunday January 5, 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**

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Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut

Church Secretary: Rona Devreese .....905-734-4746

Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.  
He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.  
The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.  
He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.  
They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.  
He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers *that* water the earth.  
In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.  
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.  
Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.  
For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper.  
He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.  
He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

*Sing Psalms!* By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Paris

Thanksgiving for Baptism

We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:  
for the star that led the magi to the manger,  
**that the nations may see the light of Christ;**  
for the water turned to wine at Cana’s wedding,  
**that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;**  
for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,  
**that the Christ would save us all.**  
This is the day that the Lord has made,  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.**

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.

St. Matthew’s mourns the death of Morley Yungblut, a longtime member and friend of the congregation. Our prayers are with Dianne and the Yungblut family as they grieve. “Rest eternal grant him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.” Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home. Friends will be received at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 57 Griffith St, Welland, Ontario on Thursday January 9, 2025 between 6:30 - 8:30 pm. A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Friday January 10, 2025 at 11 am. The Reverend Barton Coleman will officiate. A Private Family Interment will follow at St. John’s Public Cemetery, Jordan, ON. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St Matthew’s Lutheran Church of Welland or the Niagara Alzheimer’s Society. Online condolences and donations may be made at [www.budgellfuneralhome.ca](http://www.budgellfuneralhome.ca)

Upcoming Dates & Things to Remember

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

Our Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025, after the Church Service.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 4, page 147

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism...Printed in Bulletin  
Welcoming Hymn **ELW# 292** Love Has Come Kyrie .....ELW  
page 147  
Hymn of Praise.....ELW page 148 “Glory to God in the Highest”  
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading .....Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14.....Printed in Bulletin  
Second Reading .....Ephesians 3:1-12  
Gospel Acclamation .....Page 151  
“Alleluia, Lord to Whom shall we go?”  
Gospel.....Matthew 2:1-12  
“Glory to you, O Lord”  
“Praise to you, O Christ”

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day..... **ELW #270** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Nicene Creed.....ELW page 104

Prayers of Intercession  
Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Offering Prayer .....Printed in Bulletin  
Great Thanksgiving.....ELW Page 152  
Holy, Holy, Holy .....ELW Page 153  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord’s Prayer .....ELW Page 154  
“Lamb of God” .....ELW Page 154  
Communion Hymns ..... **ELW # 490 & 489**  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements  
Blessing  
Sending Hymn..... **ELW # 291** Let Our Gladness Have No End  
Dismissal: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.  
“**Thanks be to God**”