



## *Third Sunday of Advent*

December 11, 2022

8:30 a.m.

*ELW Setting 4*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

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**www.stmatthewmedina.org**

# GATHERING

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed by God's name forever. Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song:** *All Earth is Hopeful* No. 266

### \*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie** Page 147

**\*Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast* Page 149

### \*Prayer of the Day

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Advent Candle Song** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* No. 240  
(verses 1-3)

## \*Advent Candle Prayer

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.**

## Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

## WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>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;

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>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.  
<sup>10</sup>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.

R: The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are  
bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### Second Reading

James 5:7-10

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

R: The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gospel Acclamation

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### \*Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>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.’

<sup>11</sup>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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day:**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
verses 5-6

No. 257

**Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

D: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

D: Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss especially Marge Murray, Sandi, Pat Pritchard, Bob Madey, Arline, Don Baker, Judy McLaughlin, Peggy, Pat, Steve Combs, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

D: Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offertory**

*One Bright Word of Peace*  
Stewart/Purifoy

Luther Choir

**Offering Prayer**

P: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**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 him thanks and praise.**

**\*Proper Preface**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

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**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymn**

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

No. 726

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

*People, Look East*

No. 248

**\*Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**

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## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of Grandpa Dick Koenig and friends lost, by Carrie Koenig.

**Prayers for Healing:** Marge Murray, Sandi, Pat Pritchard, Bob Madey, Arline, Don Baker, Judy McLaughlin, Peggy, Pat, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Third Sunday of Advent,** we worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *ELW Setting 4 liturgy* and Holy Communion and at 11:00 a.m. with *ELW Setting 4 liturgy* with Jazzy hymns and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**Blood Pressure Screening** before each service in Brenda's office.

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Advent,** we will worship in person and livestream at 10:00 a.m. with *Youth Led Worship* and Holy Communion.

**Congregational Meeting** immediately after worship.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Date	Sunday December 11	Sunday December 11	Sunday December 18	Sunday December 18
<b>Service</b>	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Lucy Brown-Serban	Emma Gierhart	Faith Taraschke	Logan Naida
<b>Reader</b>	Adam Scheid			
<b>Ushers</b>				
<b>Communion</b>				
<b>Sound</b>	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler
<b>Video</b>	Rex Rickly	--	Rex Rickly	--
<b>Altar Guild</b>				

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Watch your bulletins and Shout-Outs for details.*

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 am, Youth Led worship

Sunday, December 18, 11:15 am, Annual Congregational meeting.

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 pm, Meal. Advent Worship at 7:00 pm.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Worship** - Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesday, December 14. 6:00 p.m. meal. 7:00 p.m. Worship.

**Advent Devotions** - Thank you to everyone who volunteered to write a 2022 Advent Devotion! Each day during Advent, a link to a new devotion, written by our members, will appear on our church website homepage. All completed devotions will be available on an archived webpage.

**Book Club** - The next book that we will be reading is *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. We will read the book on our own and see the movie when it comes out in January. We will gather together to discuss at Wingz after the movie. Additional details will follow. Happy reading!

## VOLUNTEER AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Nursery Assistants** - The Personnel Committee is looking for several members of St. Matthew who would be willing to serve as an assistant in the nursery on a rotation. Our nursery attendant sometimes needs a couple extra hands. If you would be willing to serve as a Nursery Assistant for one service or during the Sunday School hour once every couple of months, contact the Personnel Director, Barb Woodard, at 330-321-2408 or [barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com).

**Youth Music Director** - We have many talented young members of our congregation who enjoy music and would love to show their talents to the congregation. We have been searching for a person who would lead our youth choir(s) and instrumental groups. If you know of someone who would be qualified in this position, contact Barb Woodard, Personnel Director, for more information at 330-321-2408 or [barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com).

**Worship Assistants** - Readers, Ushers, and Communion Assistants. Please sign up in the narthex. For any questions regarding these opportunities, please contact Sandy Andrews.

## **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

### **Pastor Steve's Contact Information**

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338

### **St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!**

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us in the bread and the wine.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Hearing Loop  
System available.