



First Sunday of Advent & Baptism of Noah Michael Brunetti Holy Communion

November 27, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to worship this morning!

If you are new to the congregation, please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship or take a break in our “Kids’ Korner” in the gathering space where the service is piped in for parents. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall past the church office. All who desire the sacrament are welcome for **communion**. Pre-filled communion cups are available at the usher’s table. During Holy Communion we will invite all who desire to come forward to kneel at the altar rail. Please bring your communion kit with you at that time.

The **hymns** are printed in the red book available in the pew rack. “ELW” refers to the book’s title, “Evangelical Lutheran Worship.”

PRELUDE: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things. †
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.
I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
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.

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.
Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 (Stanza 1)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257
Stanzas 1 & 6

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 24:36-44*

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW 726

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

The baptismal party gathers at the font. Presiding minister addresses the assembly.

God, who is rich in mercy and love,
gives us a new birth

into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.

By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death
and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ.

We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ,
anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,
and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Jill and Nathan, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Noah baptized into Christ? If so, please respond “we do.”

Response: We do.

As you bring Noah to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God’s faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Noah may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Noah grow in the Christian faith and life?

If so, please respond “we do.”

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Jennifer and Evan, you have been asked to fulfill the sacred responsibilities of godparents, that is baptismal sponsors. Do you promise to nurture Noah in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God’s Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? If so, please respond “we do.”

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Noah and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Water is poured into the font.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head:

Noah Michael, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
water is poured a second time:

and of the Son,

water is poured a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly responds.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give this your child, new birth,
cleanse him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Noah with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Noah Michael, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the  cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

A lighted candle is presented to the newly baptized as these words are spoken:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ

and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God

and bearing God's creative and redeeming word

to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. We give you thanks for the gift of water and for the Baptism of Noah this day. Bless his family as they raise him and bless Noah as he grows in life and in relationship with you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, beat our swords into plowshares, our weapons of war into tools for service and peace. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. Give us the audacity to believe that peace is truly possible. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of loving kindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. We give thanks for the Avon interfaith supper and service of Thanksgiving last week. And we praise you this Thanksgiving weekend for all your gifts to us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray? (*Here worshippers may raise other prayers, aloud or silently, ending each prayer with the words, God of grace, to which the congregation may respond, hear our prayer.*)

God of our longing, by your Spirit gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness! At this time ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at www.stmatthewavon.org or mailed to the church.

OFFERTORY: *In Night's Dim Shadows Lying*

George Guest

In night's dim shadows lying,
Our limbs fast locked in sleep,
To thee with faithful sighing,
Our souls their vigil keep.

Desire of ev'ry nation,
Hear, Lord, our piteous cry,
Thou Word the world's salvation,
Uplift us where we lie.

Lord, be Thine Advent hasten'd
Lest sin Thy people mar,
The gates which Adam fasten'd,
The gates of heav'n unbar.

Son, to Thine endless merit,
Redeemer, Saviour, Friend.
With Sire and Holy Spirit
Be praises without end.

DOXOLOGY

All rise as the communion elements are brought forward.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

At this time, we invite you to come forward with your communion kit and kneel at the altar rail or to remain in your seat to commune there. Trash bins will be available at the side of the altar rail and as you exit the church.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

COMMUNION HYMN: *Creator of the Stars of Night*

ELW 245

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

ELW 246

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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This morning, altar flowers are given by George Spoering in memory of Lisa Spoering.

MANY THANKS THIS MORNING TO OUR:

Ushers: Kevin Reichler & George Spoering

Lector: Hal Eberhard

Assisting Minister: Roy Zurell

Live Stream: George Spoering

Altar Guild: Paula Robinson & Deb Brodeur

Staff:

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok, Pastor-pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Sarah Schiener, Director of Music - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Paul Martin, Church Administrator - office@stmatthewavon.org

Roy Zurell, Sexton – contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Visit us on our website: www.stmatthewavon.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday: 9:00am Sanctuary Communion Service
10:20am Adult Forum & Sunday School

Monday: **OFFICE CLOSED**
7:00pm Confirmation Class

Tuesday: **New Office Hours Start (8:00am – 3:00pm)**

Wednesday: 9:30am Weight Watchers (Hall of the Evangelists)
5:00pm Centering Prayer
5:15pm Weight Watchers (Hall of the Evangelists)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Hall of the Evangelists)

Thursday: 10:00am Bible Study (Conference Room)
7:00pm Endowment Meeting

Sunday: 9:00am Sanctuary Communion Service
10:20am Adult Forum & Sunday School
5:00pm Confirmation Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We hope you will join us after the service today to celebrate The Reverend Doctor Brian Rajcok! There will be a special cake in his honor, and he will be sharing his work in Adult Forum.

ST. MATTHEW CHOIR

The St. Matthew Choir will meet every Wednesday night throughout November at 7:00 pm in the Hall of the Evangelists as we prepare for the Advent season. If you would like to sing with us but cannot commit to every rehearsal and service, contact Sarah Schiener, (919) 810-4732/schienerse@gmail.com, to explore possibilities of singing for certain seasons or special occasions. We hope to welcome many new voices!

St. Matthew Mission Statement:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.

*In Christ, We Are
Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.*