

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024

God Gives Both Substitute and Sacrifice

Opening Hymn 355, "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Order of Service..... Setting Two, Page 172

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 84B vv. 5-7

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 631, "Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening"

SERMON..... "What Did You Get for Christmas?" Hebrews 2:10-18

Offering Hymn 750 v. 2, "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Apostles' Creed Page 181

Hymn 347, "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Closing Liturgy Page 171

Closing Hymn 930 vv. 1 & 2, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9

The Servant of the LORD spoke through the prophet Isaiah. As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

The Lord God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. The Lord God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. The Lord God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on

me? Let him approach me. Look, the Lord God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.

Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

And again: I will trust in him.

And again: Here I am and the children God has given me.

Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.

Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" They did not understand what he was telling them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ronald Knueppel/Randy Sellnow; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

ORGANISTS: The **January** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

UPCOMING SERVICES: There will be a New Year's Eve communion worship service on **Tuesday, December 31**, at **7:00 PM**. There are **NO** worship services on New Year's Day. Thereafter, we return to our regular weekly worship schedule with services being held on **Thursday, January 2**, at **7:00 PM** and **Sunday, January 5**, at **9:00 AM**. These will both be communion worship services.

CALL RETURNED: For those who may not have heard, the call which we extended to Pastor Andrew Schrimpf was returned. In light of this, we will be having a new call meeting; however, this will likely not take place until later in January due to the calling hiatus the Synod is on for the holidays.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not done so already, please pick up your new offering envelope packets for 2025 which are located on a table in the school hallway. Thank you!

2024 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: There are a few leftover 2024 Christmas ornaments which were handed out to the children on Christmas Eve. If a school family would like an extra one or if there are any other members who would like one, please feel free to take one from the table at the back of church.

ADULT & TEEN BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again on **Sunday, January 5**, at **10:15 AM**. Classes conclude around 11:00 AM. Why not start out the new year by joining in?

CHURCH DIRECTORY: A copy of the current church directory is located on a table in the school hallway. Please check your family's information and make any corrections needed. If all the information is correct, please place a checkmark by your name(s). This updated directory will be available sometime after the Annual Voters' Meeting in January. Thank you!

2025 MOHW CONFERENCE: The 16th annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the **Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center** in **Oshkosh** on **Saturday, February 8, 2025**. This year's theme is: *Forge Ahead in Faith*. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org (under the Oshkosh tab at the top of the page). There is also a flyer located on the table at the back of church. The registration fee is **\$75** for adults. (If you purchase five or more tickets at once, the price is **\$60.00** per adult.) The registration fee for youths is **\$35.00**. These early bird rates are only good through **January 21, 2025**. Ticket prices will increase after that date. The final day to register is **February 2, 2025**. In order that we might be able to take advantage of the reduced group-rate ticket price, we ask that anyone who is interested in attending this conference to please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. Dean Ebert and Scott Mittelstadt have attended this conference in the past, so if you would like more information about this conference, please feel free to reach out to either of them.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report will be printed in a few weeks. Please start working on your year-end reports and turn them in to the office by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8!** Reports submitted after that date will **not** be included. Thank you!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday (12/19): Service canceled due to snow; Sunday (12/22): 115
Christmas Eve: 252/124; Christmas Day: 150

Offerings: Sunday: (12/22): 3,854.00; Christmas Eve: \$4,209.00; Christmas Day: \$6,444.00
(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$100.00; Church Refurbishment: \$500.00;
St. Matthew's School: \$50.00



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plate located on the table at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM

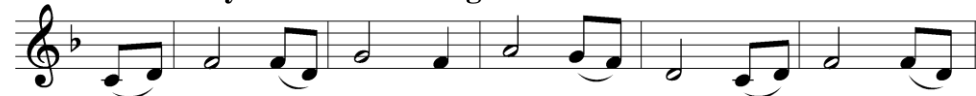
Mon. – Fri.: **NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK CONTINUES**

Tuesday: *New Year's Eve Communion Worship Service*7:00 PM

Thursday: Communion Worship Service7:00 PM

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

84B How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place *Psalm 84B sts. 5-7*



5 O hear my call, great God of might, as now I
6 One day I hold with you more dear than thou - sands
7 My sun, my shield, my heart, my grace, my bless - ing



stand with - in your sight, this pil - grim in your
spent a - way from here. If I could stand be -
sure, my dwell - ing place, un - fail - ing light to



ho - ly place, O look, and see your ser - vant's face.
fore your door and serve you well, I'd want no more.
pil - grim's feet who jour - ney forth their God to meet.

Text: para. Marty Haugen

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker

Text: © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 739996

Tune: Public domain