

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 30 & February 2, 2025

### *Popularity Is Not Proof of Success*

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Opening Hymn ..... 742, “On Galilee’s High Mountain”

Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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 (*In Hymnal*) ..... Psalm 71

#### SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation ..... Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *I must proclaim the good news of the king \* / dom of God, because that is why \* / I was sent.*

#### GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day ..... 643, “O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word”

SERMON..... “**Make Full Use of the Scriptures**” 2 Timothy 3:16,17

Offering Hymn ..... 754 v. 2, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”

Nicene Creed ..... Pages 162-163

Communion Liturgy ..... Page 165

Communion Hymn..... 670, “I Come, O Savior, to Your Table”

Closing Liturgy ..... Page 170

Closing Hymn .....931 vv. 1 & 2, “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

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### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

**The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God’s Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.**

*The word of the Lord came to me. Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations. But I said, “Ah, Lord God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!”*

*The Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the Lord.” Then the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The Lord said to me: There! I have now*

*placed my words in your mouth. Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.*

### SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

**A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.**

*As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.*

*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

*As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.*

### GOSPEL: Luke 4:38-44

**Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.**

*Jesus got up, left the synagogue, and went into Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. They asked him to help her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. As the sun was setting, they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. Demons also came out of many people, crying out, “You are the Son of God!” He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.*

*When it was day, he went out to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. They went up to him and were trying to prevent him from leaving them. But he told them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is why I was sent.” And he continued to preach in the synagogues in the land of the Jews.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION:** Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

**HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK:** Dean Ebert/Rob Stern; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart.

**MR. LORGE RETURNS CALL:** We are pleased to report that Mr. Lorge has returned his call to Divine Peace Lutheran School in Largo, Maryland. We pray that the Lord blesses Mr. Lorge's work as he continues to serve him here at St. Matthew's. Please also keep Divine Peace in your prayers as they continue to try to fill their vacancy.

**SERVICE GROUP ELECTIONS:** At the Annual Service Group meeting which was held last Sunday, elections of officers took place. The positions up for election were Vice President and Treasurer. Diane Koch was elected as the Vice President. This will be her first term in this office. Suanne Ebert was elected as the Treasurer. This will be her first term in this office. The position of President remains with Wayne Schultz, and the position of Secretary remains with Connie Mose. We thank all our officers for taking the time to act in these capacities. We also thank our outgoing Vice President, Donald Koch; and our outgoing Treasurer, Dean Ebert, for fulfilling two terms in their respective offices.

**ORGANISTS:** The **February** 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!

**CHURCH MAIL SLOTS RE-ORGANIZED:** Reminder! The church mail slots have been re-organized and re-numbered for the new year. If you are picking something up from your mail slot today or in the near future, please be sure that you are taking items from the correct slot! Thank you!

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT/2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Both of these items are still available. You may pick up copies from the table at the back of church if you have not already done so.

**CHILI/BINGO/DONUTS!** The PTL will be hosting their second annual chili luncheon & bingo event on **Sunday, February 23, 2025**, immediately following our 9:00 AM worship service. Mark your calendars today and watch for further details about BINGO prizes to bring, if playing! There is also now a sign-up sheet posted on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board for food items which are needed for the chili luncheon. Please look at it and sign up for what you may be willing to donate. Food donations will need to be here by **February 19!** Let's mingle and BINGO!

**EVERYONE OUTREACH:** The time is fast approaching for the *Everyone Outreach* program which our congregation is hosting. *Everyone Outreach* is designed to help our congregation build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. There is no cost to attend! It is scheduled for **March 1, 2025**, from **9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. We would like to have as much participation from our members as possible! Any questions about this program may be directed to **Scott Mittelstadt**.

**WE THANK** the students in Gr. 3-5 for beautifying our Sunday service with their song.

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Thursday: 12; Sunday: 247

**Offerings:** \$11,417.00

*(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)*

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$435.00; Church Refurbishment: \$5,080.00;  
Lutherans for Life: \$25.00; Christian Life Resources: \$25.00

**Memorials:** In Memory of Jerome Bilgrien: \$40.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*;  
In Memory of Robert Field: \$40.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*



*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: Communion Worship Service .....9:00 AM  
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM

Thursday: Worship Service .....7:00 PM  
**NO** Adult Choir  
**Scrip Orders Due**

Sunday: Worship Service .....9:00 AM  
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM