

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2023

## A Savior Is Born To Be The True Son

**Opening Hymn** ..... 355, “Let All Together Praise Our God”

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

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; 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 2

### SECOND READING

**Gospel Acclamation** ..... Page 161

**Gospel Acclamation Verse:** *Sing to the LORD a new song; /\* his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. (SUNG! – See Pg. 161 for melody.)*

### GOSPEL

**Hymn of the Day** ..... 334, “I Stand beside Your Manger Here”

**SERMON**..... “The Lord Watches Over His Children” Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23

**Offering Hymn** ..... 729 v. 3, “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

**Nicene Creed** ..... Pages 162-163

**Communion Liturgy** ..... Page 165

**Communion Hymn**..... 673, “O Lord, We Praise You”

**Closing Liturgy** ..... Page 170

**Closing Hymn** ..... 583 vv. 1, 3, & 4, “God Loves Me Dearly”

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

**The kindness of the Lord is seen in this. When his children turned away from him, he sent a Savior to redeem them.**

*I will tell about the LORD’s mercies, about the praises of the LORD, about all that the LORD has done for us, about his great goodness to the house of Israel, which he performed for them according to his abundant compassion, and according to his great mercy. He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely,” so he became their Savior. In all their anguish he felt anguish, and the Angel of his Presence saved them. In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them, and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.*

## SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

**Since we have been redeemed by God’s true Son, we are now able to call God “Father.”**

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

**God’s plan was to save the world by having his true Son serve as our substitute, dying on the cross. And so God saves his true Son from an early death.**

*After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”*

*Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”*

*When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.*

*After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”*

*Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod’s son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”*

## 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.

**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!

**ADULT & TEEN BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL** will begin again on **Sunday, January 8, at 10:15 AM**. Classes conclude around 11:00 AM.

**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 11!** Reports submitted after that date will **not** be included. Thank you!

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Our 2023 offering envelopes are delayed in printing. Please check your mail slots for temporary envelopes that have your new 2023 numbers on them. Please use these envelopes **beginning January 1 (TODAY), 2023**. We expect to have our envelopes sometime in January.

**THE SCRIP PROGRAM** is back up and running for the new year. The next ordering deadline is **Thursday, January 5**. Remember! School families are able to earn tuition credits through our scrip program. If you have any questions about how this works, please contact our scrip coordinator, **Holly Daley**.

**2023 MOHW CONFERENCE:** The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the **Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center** in **Oshkosh** on **Saturday, February 18, 2023**. This year's theme is: *MAN UP! (In a Man Down World)*. Additional details and online registration are available at **www.menofhisword.org**. There is also a flyer located on the table at the back of church. The registration fee is **\$60** for adults and **\$30** for youth. These rates increase to **\$75** and **\$37** respectively after January 29. Please consider joining them for a day of worship, praise, and fellowship in God's Word!

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Helen Davidson and family in loving memory of Joe Davidson.



## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Thursday (12/15): 18; Sunday: (12/18): 96  
Christmas Eve: 171/139; Christmas Day: 143

**Offerings:** Thurs./Sun. (12/15 & 12/18): \$4,757.25

**Tuition:** \$857.23; **4K Tuition:** \$135.60

Christmas Eve: \$5,518.00; Christmas Day: \$14,368.60  
(*Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,889.00*)

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$100.00; St. Matthew's Choir: \$100.00

## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service .....9:00 AM  
**NO** Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School

Mon. – Wed.: **NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break Continues**

Thursday: **SCHOOL RESUMES!!**  
Worship Service .....7:00 PM  
Adult Choir.....8:00 PM  
**Scrip Orders Due**

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