

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18 & 21, 2024

Committed to a Lofty Charge

Opening Hymn 573, "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"

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

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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 67D

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *I will declare your name to my people; */ in the assembly I will praise you.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 563, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

SERMON..... "The Lord Works True Repentance " Jonah 3:1-5,10

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

Nicene CreedPages 180-181

Communion Liturgy Page 183

Communion Hymn.....677, "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord"

Closing Liturgy Page 187

Closing Hymn711 vv.1 & 5, "Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult"

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5,10

The reluctant Jonah had been given the lofty charge of proclaiming a message from the LORD to the people of Nineveh.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, "Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!"

The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Christ has committed to us, as his ambassadors, the message of reconciliation.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

When Jesus gave Simon and Andrew the lofty charge of fishing for people, they left everything else behind.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

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: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

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!

CALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: At the Call Meeting held last Sunday, a divine call was extended to Mrs. Hannah Schleef of West Bend, Wisconsin, to teach Gr. 4K/5K beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Schleef does not currently hold a call. Please keep Mrs. Schleef in your prayers as she deliberates our call.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: The following are highlights from the Annual Voters' Meeting which was held on Wednesday, January 17. Membership action included: **Received by Transfer:** Ervin Fiedler from Peace, Hartford. **Transferred:** Holly (Pamperin) Schraufnagel to Hope Lutheran, Los Angeles, California. **Released:** James Flejter; Holly Gensch (Brooklyn Phillips, Kaden Phillips); Timothy Borges.

The following men were elected as officers or board members: Treasurer – Lyle Moldenhauer (inc.); Secretary – Bill Keller, III (inc.); Trustee – Jeff Diels; School Board – Rick Fink (inc.); Elder – Dean Ebert (inc.); Cemetery – Hubert Albert. Wayne Schultz was re-appointed as our Financial Secretary. We thank our outgoing officers: Randy Sellnow – Trustee; Dan Qualmann – Cemetery. Installation of the new officers will take place on **Sunday (TODAY), January 21.**

In other business, 1) It was m/s/p to proceed with the church refurbishment project by contracting with Conrad Schmitt for the work. The estimated cost of this project is between \$275,000 - \$300,000. The work is estimated to begin in the fall of 2024, and 2) It was m/s/p to increase our called workers compensation beginning with the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year by paying them an annual housing allowance of \$4,000 each (full-time) or \$2,000 each (half-time).

ANNUAL REPORT: The 2023 Annual Report is available today. You may pick up a copy of the report from the table at the back of church.

ADULT & TEEN BIBLE CLASS will begin again on **Sunday (TODAY), January 21, at 10:15 AM.** Sunday School is also in session. All classes will conclude at 11:00 AM. If you haven't participated before, why not give it a try for the new year?

ALTAR GUILD: The next meeting of the Altar Guild is set for **Tuesday, January 23, at 6:30 PM.** If you would like to become a member or would like to learn more about the Altar Guild, please feel free to attend this upcoming meeting. New members are always welcome and needed!

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next Service Group meeting will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday, January 28.** Annual elections of officers will be held and activities for 2024 will be discussed. All members are invited to participate!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by Wayne & Bonnie Schultz in loving memory of Wayne's mother, Louise Schultz.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 26; Sunday: 78

Offerings: \$5,060.25

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$40.00; Church Refurbishment: \$40.00

Memorials: In Memory of Margaret Krohn: \$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 plates located on the tables 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
Tuesday:	Altar Guild Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday:	Worship Service	7:00 PM
	Adult Choir.....	8:00 PM
Sunday:	Worship Service (Fellowship Sunday).....	9:00 AM
	<i>Service Group Meeting – Immediately following fellowship hour</i>	

67D Let the People Praise You, O God

Psalm 67D

Refrain



Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.
May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth. *Refrain*

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.

Tune: Dale Wood

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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