

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 23 & 26, 2025

## Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure

Opening Hymn ..... 707, “Cling Tightly to the Word of God”

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

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 146D v. 1

### SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation ..... Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *The Spirit of the Lord is \*/ on me,  
because he has anointed me to proclaim good  
news \*/ to the poor.*

Hymn of the Day ..... 517, “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

### VIDEO – Time of Grace

Offering Hymn..... 748 v. 1, “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Apostles’ Creed ..... Page 163

Hymn ..... 743, “I Hear the Savior Calling”

Closing Liturgy ..... Page 171

Closing Hymn ..... 925, “On What Has Now Been Sown”

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-6

**Israel had rejected the Lord. So God allowed them to be conquered and carried off as captives. Yet, he also promised to forgive their rejection and grant them freedom.**

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord to display his beauty.*

*Then they will rebuild ancient ruins. They will raise up what was formerly devastated, and they will renew ruined cities, which have been devastated for generations. Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock, and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers. You will be called the Lord’s priests. You will be named ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and you will boast about their riches.*

## SECOND READING: Acts 4:23-31

**Just as the Jewish religious leaders had rejected Jesus, they rejected the work and words of the apostles. So the apostles prayed for boldness to proclaim the gospel in the face of that opposition.**

*After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, “Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.*

*“For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.*

*“Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

*After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

## GOSPEL: Luke 4:16-30

**In one of Jesus’ first sermons, delivered in his hometown, people took offense at his words and ultimately rejected him.**

*He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

*He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began to tell them, “Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”*

*He told them, “Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum.” And he said, “Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian.”*

*All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.*

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Thursday: 14; Sunday: 119

**Offerings:** \$3,794.50

**Tuition:** \$3,875.00; **4K Tuition:** \$1,891.50

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

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$1.00; Church Refurbishment: \$40.00; PTL Pizza Sales (to Church Refurbishment): \$9,000.00; Lutherans for Life: \$100.00; Christian Life Resources: \$100.00

**Memorials:** In Memory of Derek Yarger: \$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:           Worship Service (**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**).....9:00 AM  
                           **(WLA Traveling Choir @ 9:00 AM Worship Service)**  
                           *Service Group Meeting – Immediately following fellowship hour*

Tuesday:           Altar Guild Meeting .....6:30 PM

Thursday:          Communion Worship Service .....7:00 PM  
                           Adult Choir.....8:00 PM

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

### 146D Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him.....Psalm 146D st. 1

1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!

Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and

an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as

he al - lows me breath. From him my life and

all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly

name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HEAD USHERS:** Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY:** Today is Fellowship Sunday! All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service. We thank Pastor and Connie Mose for hosting this fellowship hour. They are hosting the fellowship in celebration of their 29<sup>th</sup> year serving the Lord here at St. Matthew's!

**WE THANK** the WLA Traveling Choir, under the direction of Dale Witte, for beautifying our Sunday morning worship service with their songs. **We also thank** Pastor Phil Janke for sharing God's message with us today.

**FREE-WILL OFFERING:** This morning we are taking a free-will offering to help support the WLA Traveling Choir. Any donations may be placed in the designated plate located on the table at the back of church.

**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!

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** The following men were elected as officers or board members for our congregation at the January 15, 2025, Annual Meeting: Chairman – Doug Schulz; Trustee – Curt Schellinger (inc.); School Board – Brian Youngbeck (inc.); Stewardship – Austin Kriewald; Elder – Jeremy Johnson; Cemetery – Mark Callies. Wayne Schultz will remain as the Financial Secretary. Installation of the new officers will take place on **Sunday (TODAY)**. We thank our outgoing officers for their faithful years of service: Ross Schultz – Chairman; Bob Kriewald – Elder; Dave Foulkes – Stewardship; Marvin Justman – Cemetery.

**CHURCH MAIL SLOTS RE-ORGANIZED:** 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!

**2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY:** The 2025 church directory is available today. You may pick up a copy of the new directory from the table at the back of the church.

**SERVICE GROUP MEETING:** The next Service Group meeting will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday (TODAY), January 26**. Annual elections of officers will be held and activities for 2025 will be discussed. All members are invited to participate!

**ALTAR GUILD MEETING:** The next meeting of the Altar Guild is set for **Tuesday, January 28, 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!

**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 food items to bring and BINGO prizes to bring, if playing! 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**.