

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

*God Gives Satisfaction to Those
Who Patiently Wait*

Opening Hymn384, "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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 135A

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *All the ends of the */ earth have seen
the salvation */ of our God.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day350, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

SERMON..... "God's Christmas Gift To You Is . . ." Galatians 4:4-7

Offering Hymn 749 v. 3, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Nicene CreedPages 162-163

Communion Liturgy Page 165

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

Closing Liturgy Page 170

Closing Hymn904 vv. 1 & 2, "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7

Abram had waited for God to keep his promise to make Abram into the father of many nations.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous."

Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, "As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from you. Kings will come out of you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as

an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

The Old Testament believers waited for God to keep his promise to send a Savior. God kept his promise when the time had fully come. Those believers received the satisfaction of sonship.

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: Luke 1:68-79

In joyful satisfaction that the Lord had kept his promise of salvation, the priest Zechariah sang a song of praise.

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, because of God's tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us, to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 Zwiygart.

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!

CALL MEETING: Because the call which we extended to Pastor Andrew Schrimpf was returned, we will be having a new call meeting on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, immediately PRIOR TO the Annual Voters' Meeting. The call meeting will begin at **7:00 PM**. All voters are urged to attend!

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

HELP NEEDED! It is time to take down our Christmas decorations in the church. If you are willing to help with this, please meet here at St. Matthew's at **1:00 PM on Sunday (TODAY)**. The more help we have the quicker the work will go! Thank you!

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report will be printed soon. 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!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING: The Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, immediately following the Call Meeting which is scheduled to begin at **7:00 PM**. New church officers will be elected at this meeting, and those nominated will be posted in the school hallway on the church bulletin board in the near future. All voting members are encouraged to participate!

PTL MEETING: School parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, January 13, at 6:30 PM** at the school. All parents are urged to take an active role in what's happening at the school throughout the year. Your input is always valued!

THE SCRIP PROGRAM is back up and running for the new year. The next ordering deadline date is: **Thursday, January 9**. 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**.

WLA TRAVELING CHOIR HERE! On **Sunday, January 26, at 9:00 AM** we will be privileged to have the WLA Traveling Choir in attendance to help lead us through worship. Please join us for this very special worship opportunity! Please also be aware that we will be taking a **free-will offering** that day to help defray some of the costs for this traveling choir.

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.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Sunday (12/29): 104; New Year's Eve: 65

Offerings: Sunday (12/29): \$5,408.25; New Year's Eve: \$4,795.00

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

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$20.00



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: Communion Worship Service..... 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM
Take Down Church Decorations..... 1:00 PM

Monday: **SCHOOL RESUMES**

Wednesday: School Board Meeting..... 6:00 PM
Elders' Meeting 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!

Thursday: 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

135A Sing Praise to God.....Psalm 135A

Refrain

Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove,
the God of all cre - a - tion.

Tone

I know that the / Lord is great,
that our Lord is greater / than all gods.
The Lord does whatever / pleases him,
in the heavens and / on the earth.
Your name, Lord, endures for- / ever,
your renown, Lord, through all gener- / ations. *Refrain*

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by / human hands.
They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but / cannot see.
Those who make them will / be like them,
and so will all who / trust in them.
Praise be to the Lord from / Zion,
to him who dwells in Jerusalem. / Praise the Lord.

**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***