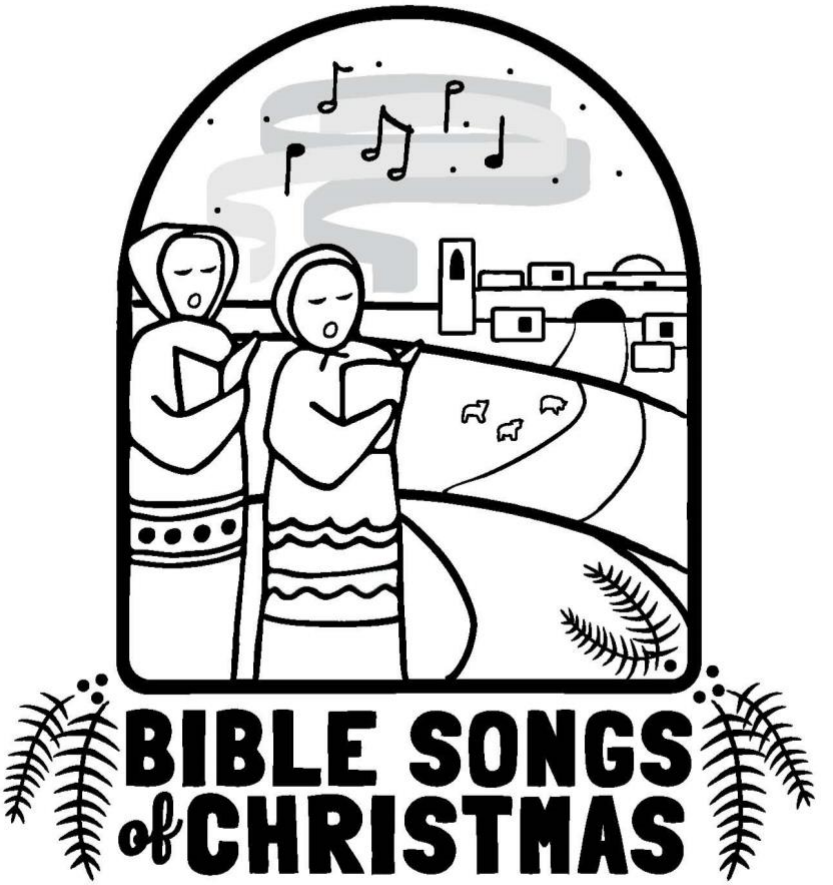


Midweek Advent Three

December 17, 2025

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today! It is our prayer that God would fill you with His grace and peace as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus. If you have questions about St. Matthew's or would like to speak to one of the pastors, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information on the back cover.

BIBLE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

THE SONG OF ANGELS

When the Bible was translated into Latin, "Gloria in excelsis Deo" were the first words of the song that the angels sang to the shepherds at Jesus' birth. We sing those words in English in our liturgy: "Glory be to God on high." The Song of the Angels is a compact, joyful proclamation of God's glory, mercy, and salvation, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The "Gloria" is simply praise to God the Father, acknowledging his glory and peace given to those favored by his grace. It has in mind that Christ, God's only Son, will take away the sin of the world. In Lutheran theology, the "Gloria" is a response of faith to God's saving work, rejoicing in justification by grace through faith. It is not just praise but proclamation: Christ has come, and in him, we have peace with God.

Preservice Christmas Carol sing-a-long.
Join us for 15 minutes of singing your favorite Christmas carols before each service.

Thank You Pastor Jonathan Kehren for sharing God's Word with us this evening. Pastor currently serves as Christian Giving Counselor for the Western Wisconsin District of WELS. He and his wife, Ginny, are St. Matthew's members.

For Your Convenience

- ◊ Restrooms are located down the hallway on the left.
- ◊ A Parents' room is available in the back of the sanctuary for those with small children.
- ◊ A Mother's room, located in the parents' room, offers privacy for nursing mothers.
- ◊ Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher upon request.
- ◊ Please silence your cell phones before worship.
- ◊ View services on Charter 985 on Thursdays at 12PM and 7PM or Sundays at 10AM. You can also visit https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+oconomowoc
- ◊ St. Matthew's is on Instagram. You can follow us @St.MatthewsOconomowoc.

The Order of Worship for
Midweek Advent Three

December 17, 2025

EVENING PRAYER ~ COMPLINE

Adapted from Evening Prayer, page 225 in the hymnal.

Ring Praise **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,

to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of day.

Hymn 349 **A Great and Mighty Wonder**

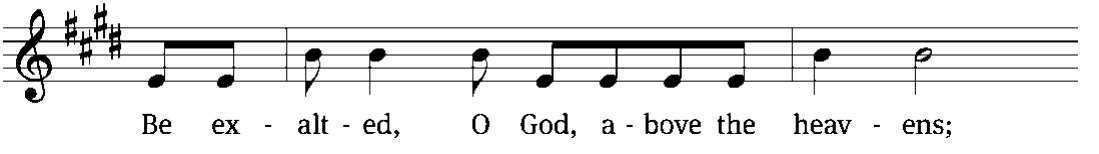
Confession of Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

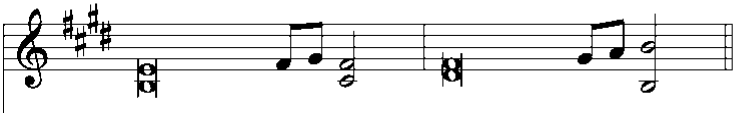
By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.
Amen.

Psalm 57A — Be Exalted, O God

Refrain



Tone



I will take refuge in the shadow / of your wings
until the disaster / has passed.
I cry out to / God Most High,
to God, who vindi- / cates me.
He sends from heaven and / saves me,
God sends forth his love and his / faithfulness. *Refrain*

My heart, O God, is / steadfast,
I will sing and make / music.
Awake, my soul! Awake, / harp and lyre!
I will awak- / en the dawn.
I will praise you, Lord, among the / nations;
I will sing of you among the / peoples.
For great is your love, reaching to the / heavens;
your faithfulness reaches / to the skies.
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*

Tune: Dale A. Witte
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Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, when the world around us assaults our souls and tempts us to cower in fear, keep us from retreating into ourselves. Move us instead to sing your praises among the peoples and raise our eyes to heaven where you rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Ring Praise — Away in a Manger

Gospel — *Luke 2:8-14*

On the night of our Savior's birth, the angels sang their song of glory to God!

[8]And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [9]An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10]But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. [11]Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. [12]This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

[13]Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

[14]"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 347 — Angels from the Realms of Glory

Sermon — Song of the Angels

Pastor Jon Kehren

Connection Cards and Offerings

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today and we would love to stay connected with you. To help us do so, please fill out the Connection Card in the seat back. You may place it in the offering plate as the offering is gathered or hand it to one of the ushers. You also have the ability to record your worship or give a gift using the appropriate QR code below. Those who have downloaded the St. Matthew's App can check-in and give offerings directly through the app. You may also text GIVE to 833-921-6451.

Guest Form



St. Matthew's App



Give Online



Prayer

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Song of Simeon

In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for every people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 746:1,4,3 I Love to Tell the Story

Join us for a meal served after the 4pm service served by our SHINE Serving Circle. Tonight's menu includes: Turkey sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, salads

Serving us today:
Pastor Jon Kehren
Joy Elowski

Upcoming Services, Concerts and Events

Dec. 20	**Live Nativity** *No regular Saturday church service this night.*	**5:00; 5:45; 6:30pm**
Dec. 21	**SMLS Children's Christmas Service Grades 3-8**	**1:00pm**
Dec. 24	**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**	**1:00, 3:30 & 6:30pm**
Dec. 25	**Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion**	**9:00am**
Dec. 27	**Saturday Worship – Christmas 1**	**5:30pm**
Dec. 28	**Sunday Morning – Christmas 1** *No Bible classes this Sunday* *No New Year's Eve / Day Services*	**8:00 & 10:30am**

Acknowledgments
Close of Day (Compline) from Christian Worship
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OUR MISSION *COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST,*

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

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St. Matthew's CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Steps CHILD CARE CENTER

WORSHIP SERVICES SATURDAY: 5:30 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Christian Education For All
SUNDAY 9:15 AM

Phone :

Church: 262.912.6060
School: 262.912.6364
First Steps: 262.912.6338

Welcome Visitors:
Please fill out the connection card in pew or scan

SCAN ME

Location :
1650 Brown St, Oconomowoc

Social Media:
@StMatthewsOconomowoc

Website : SMLS.ORG