

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 25, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

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*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

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Pastor Christian McMullan  
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director  
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania  
610-458-5675  
[www.stmatthews-church.org](http://www.stmatthews-church.org)

## WELCOME

Please stand

## GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## OPENING HYMN

40

I waited patiently for the Lord  
He inclined and heard my cry  
He brought me up out of the pit  
Out of the mire and clay

I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
How long to sing this song?  
How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long?  
How long, to sing this song?

He set my feet upon a rock  
And made my footsteps firm  
Many will see  
Many will see and fear

I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song  
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song?  
How long to sing this song?  
How long, how long, how long?  
How long to sing this song?

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C:** Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

**Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

A: A reading from Psalm 27.

A: <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**C: <sup>4</sup> One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

A: <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

**C: <sup>6</sup> Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

A: <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

**C: <sup>8</sup> My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."  
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

A: <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A: A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, the first chapter.

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 4:12-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## MESSAGE

*Please stand*

## HYMN

## You Are My Strength

You are my strength, strength like no other  
Strength like no other, reaches to me

You are my hope, hope like no other  
Hope like no other, reaches to me

In the fullness of Your grace  
In the power of Your Name  
You lift me up, You lift me up

Unfailing love, stronger than mountains  
Deeper than oceans, reaches to me

Your love, O Lord  
Reaches to the heavens  
Your faithfulness Reaches to the sky

You are my strength, strength like no other  
Strength like no other, reaches to me

You are my strength, strength like no other  
Strength like no other, reaches to me.

## THE PRAYERS

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

P: ...Merciful God,  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: Glory and Honor are yours, Creator of All,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage,  
and led them to a land of promise.

Remembering your covenant to Israel and to all people  
you sent Jesus our Redeemer to proclaim your coming reign.  
Through him you have freed us from sin, reconciled us to you,  
And restored us to the glory you intend for us.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life  
and await his coming again in glory.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit.

Enfold in your arms all who share this bread and wine.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit that we may be a living tree,  
Sharing Christ's life and love with all the world.

Through whom all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for our journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains us,  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

## **All the People Said Amen**

You are not alone if you are lonely  
When you feel afraid you're not the only  
We are all the same in need of mercy  
To be forgiven and be free  
It's all you got to lean on  
But thank God it's all you need

And all the people said amen whoa  
And all the people said amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said amen

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter  
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after  
We're all broken but we're all in this together  
God knows we stumble and fall  
And He so loved the world  
He sent His son to save us all

And all the people said amen whoa  
And all the people said amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**St. Matthew's Staff**

Pastor Christian McMullan cmcmullan71@gmail.com

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director worship@stmatthews-church.org

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785

Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381

Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675

Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator 610-458-8121