



# Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

[www.smelcnewmilford.org](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org)



## The 1st Sunday in Advent

**Ready and Waiting: Waiting and Ready**

Sunday, November 27, 2011

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

A New Jersey District  
congregation of the Lutheran  
Church -  
Missouri Synod

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**Approx. hours**  
**Tues., Weds.,**  
**THURS 9am-3pm**

**As We Gather This Sunday**

Ready and Waiting: Waiting and Ready

Like a parent who prepares the family for a trip, the Church's call in Advent is a call to be ready for the Lord---not the repeat of Bethlehem and the manger but the Lord who comes in glory as King of all. This call to prepare for the coming of the Lord is echoed in the traditional Palm Sunday processional Gospel that serves as our Gospel reading today. It is the first coming of our Lord through Mary that prepares us for His return in glory. Gathered around His Word and Table we signal to the Lord that we are indeed "ready and waiting." By His grace, we lack nothing that we need to prepare us for His coming again. God's faithfulness is what gathers us today around the Word and Table of the Lord and what sustains us to the day of His coming. So Advent is not only pointing us back to the manger but forward to the heavenly glory and trumpet sound that will accompany His return.



**Saint Matthew's Mission Statement**

We are a congregation of Christians who worship, pray, hear the Word of God, receive the sacraments, give thanks, grow through Christian education, serve others, and witness to God's love because God has commanded it and we believe this. We attempt to follow this commandment at all times and in all aspects of our lives, especially in church where the fellowship of believers is reinforced. We rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds in our daily relationships; and to lead us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

## **Our Worship Service This Week:** Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service

### **Words of Welcome**

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, [www.smelcnewmilford.org](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org) and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

### **Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation**

"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs," arr. Jan Bender

### **↑ Opening Hymn**

"Come, O Precious Ransom," Lutheran Worship Hymn #34

Come, O precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world; Open are to you all portals.  
Come, your beauty let us view; Anxiously we wait for you.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and never leave, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
What vast riches will be mine When you are my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive I pray you;  
Evermore, as best I can, Homage I will gladly pay you,  
And in faith I will embrace Life eternal by your grace.

Hail! Hosanna! David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown Bring us blessing and salvation  
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our king!

**Text:** Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt..

**Tune:** Neufferfertugtes Gesangbuch, Darmstadt, 1699

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, Advent has come upon us and reminds us that the King is coming. Before we can meet Him, we need to be cleansed from our sin and restored by His grace. So now we come at His invitation to receive His promised grace.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

P: Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.  
Zachariah 9:9

**C: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

P: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

**C: let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.** Psalm 25:1-3

## Confession and Forgiveness

(Silence for reflection)

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.


**C: Amen.**

## The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

The first Advent candle is lit. We sing the first verse of the hymn "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"




1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## Kyrie

We cry out, as God's people, "Lord, have mercy!"



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast

During Advent, we omit the Hymn of Praise until it is sung on Christmas

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ↓ Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

(The prophet prays for God to rend the heavens and come down, acknowledging that we are all the work of His hands.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 1st Sunday in Advent is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 64:

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.  
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls upon your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.  
But now, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(St. Paul comforts God's people with the Lord's promise to sustain His people until the day when our Lord returns.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from First Corinthians, Chapter 1:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## ↑ Alleluia and Verse

Psalms 24:7

P: Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up

C: **O ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Alleluia.**

## **Holy Gospel**

Mark 13:24-37

(The Lord bids us to stay alert for we do not know the time when He will come again.)

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark, the 13th Chapter:

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

(Jesus said) “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Creed**

Nicene Creed

**A:** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

### **↓ Hymn of the Day**

"Savior of the Nations, Come," Lutheran Worship hymnal #13

Savior of the nations come, Show yourself the virgin's son.  
Marvel, heaven, wonder, earth That our God chose such a birth.

No man's pow'r of mind of blood But the Spirit of our God  
Made the Word of God be flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child Virgin pure and undefiled.  
In her virtues it was known God had made her heart his throne.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all From his pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, becoming man, His heroic course began.

God the Father was his source, Back to God he ran his course.  
Into hell his road went down, Back then to his throne and crown.

Father's equal, you will win Vict'ries for us over sin.  
Might eternal, make us whole; Heal our ills of flesh and soul.

From the manger newborn light Sends a glory through the night.  
Night cannot this light subdue, Faith keeps springing ever new.

Glory to the Father sin, Glory to the Son our King,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

**Text:** attr, Saint Ambrose, 340-97; German version Martin Luther 1483-1546; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913, alt.  
**Tune:** Johann Walter, Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524

## Sermon

## Offering

## Voluntary

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” arr. Peter Crisafulli

## ↑ Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, “Lord, in Your mercy,” is spoken, to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**E** Almighty God, when You come down, the nations tremble and the mountains quake because our sin angers You and causes You to look upon us in wrath. Yet for the sake of Your Son, You turn Your wrath away from us and promise to remember not our iniquity forever. We thank You for looking upon us in mercy and making us Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, as You once came in humility, riding on a donkey, to bring salvation, we await Your future powerful and glorious return. Help us not forget Your promised coming but instead lead us to live each day in repentance as we await Your second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**E** Eternal God, as we begin a new Church year that marks the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Your Son and His teachings for us, open our ears to Your Holy Word so that we may cling to Your forgiveness, life, and salvation, hold Your Son’s words and works sacred, and grow in faithfulness to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, bless the work of Your servants who proclaim Your salvation, especially our pastors and all missionaries, Matthew, our Synod President, and William, our District President. For those already members of Your Kingdom, sustain them in the true faith as they receive Your Gospel and Sacraments through these servants. For those presently outside Your kingdom, use the work of Your servants that they may repent of their sins, trust Your merciful goodness, and rest in the peace of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

- E Merciful Father, grant to all your people the patience and peace to tackle the coming days with hopeful joy in their lives. While the world is embarking on weeks of materialism for gifts presented on Christmas Day, may all who are called by name and Baptized into Your Son be filled with a longing that when our Lord Jesus comes to us, the promises You made to Your people will come true.  
Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- E O Lord, look with kindness upon all who are sick and suffering, the homebound and elderly, and those suffering from terminal disease and chronic pain, remembering this morning all those on our church prayer list and those we now mention before You in the deep recesses of our hearts (PAUSE - 5 seconds). Assure them of Your mercy, and comfort them with the awareness of Your goodness. If it please You, restore them to health and strength, or give them grace to accept their afflictions and anticipate the eternal healing You will bring when You come again. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Lord Jesus, as You once entered Jerusalem in great humility, riding on a colt, You also enter our presence under the bread and wine of Your holy meal. Let us find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- E Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise," Lutheran Worship #450, stanzas 8-9

**The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,  
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!  
Who was, and is the same And evermore shall be:  
Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"**

**The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heavn'ly lays:  
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!**

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt.  
Tune: YIGDAL, Hebrew.  
Text and Tune: Public domain

## Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You send Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ, the kingdom of heaven has drawn near. With thankful hearts we pray then:

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new

testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: In His body and blood, given us to eat and drink in this most holy Supper, we here receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in His glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

**A: 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.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **Hymn**

“The Lamb, The Lamb,” Lutheran Service Book, #547, stanzas 1, 4, 5

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, He dies, He take my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He give me His own righteousness.  
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song, prolong Till ev’ry heart to Him belong.  
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Music: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Text and tune: (c) 1987 Morningstar Music Publishers

Setting (c) 1997 Morningstar Music Publishers

## ↓ Communion Distribution

"The King Shall Come," arr. Austin Lovelace

**The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the altar rail this morning.**

## ↑ Collect

**E:** Let us pray. O Lord, as You promised, You have come to us in Your Word and Sacrament. Help us to keep faithfully what You have fed and nourished us with today that we may be ready and waiting to receive our Lord when He comes again in His glory. Guide us to use wisely the time and opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ now, before the day of salvation gives way to the day of judgment; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Benediction

**P:** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C: Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

"The King Shall Come," Lutheran Worship hymnal #26

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

Not, as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious rose  
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

Oh brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty Brings,  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kinds.

**Text:** John Browlie, 1859-1925, alt.  
**Tune:** John Wych, *Repository of Sacred Music, Par II, 1813*

## **Musical Benediction**

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful,” arr. Robert Lind

## **Dismissal**

## **Postlude**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns,” arr. Austin Lovelace.

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