



Saint Matthew Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
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In these last days
God has spoken to us
by a Son
HEBREWS 1:2

The Nativity of Our Lord December 25, 2015

9:00 AM



The Liturgy of The Holy Eucharist II

Gathering Hymn #79 *O Little town of Bethlehem*

Procession to the Altar Hymn #105

God rest you merry gentlemen

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christmas candle lighting

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King/ almighty God and
Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God/ you take away the sin**

**of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High/ Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from Isaiah

(52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

(Read in unison after the first asterisk)

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, * **for he has done marvelous things.**
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 **The LORD has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.**
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;* lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**
- 6 **Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 **With trumpets and the sound of the horn* shout with joy before the King, the LORD.**
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- 9 **Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world* and the peoples with equity.**

A Reading from Hebrews (1:1-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is

more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn #84 vss. 1, 2

Love came down at Christmas

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (1:1-14)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did

not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Gradual Hymn #84 vs. 3

Love came down at Christmas

The Sermon

Fr. Haynes

Silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed (Standing, as able.)

We believe in one God, / **the Father, the Almighty, / maker of heaven and earth, / of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, / the only Son of God, / eternally begotten of the Father, / God from God, Light from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten, not made, / of one Being with the Father. / Through him all things were made. / For us and for our salvation / he came down from heaven: / by the power of the Holy Spirit / he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. / For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; / he suffered death and was buried. / On the third day he rose again / in accordance with the Scriptures; / he ascended into heaven / and is seated at the right hand of the Father. / He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, / and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, / who proceeds from the Father and the Son. / With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. / He has spoken through the Prophets. / We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. / We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. / We look for the resurrection of the dead, / and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

For the holy Church of God, that we may boldly proclaim the good tidings of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. We pray especially for Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Francis, Bishop of Rome, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our presiding bishop, Gregory our bishop; for priests, deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For the Anglican Communion, especially York (York, England); our diocese, especially Our Saviour, Monroe; St. John, Snohomish; and our parish, especially for our parishioners Alisande Watterson & Bill Bowers; Randy White & Robert Goforth; Jim & Jackie Whorton.

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the world, especially Barack, our president, that they may follow the example of the Prince of Peace by striving for peace and justice among the nations. We pray for our armed forces and for those who are deployed, especially for those we now name....

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially for the blessings we now name....

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For those who travel, that their reunions may be occasions of celebration and that they return safely to their homes.

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, and all who are alone and forgotten, that we, who have received so abundantly, may give generously for their lives and needs.

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For those who do not yet know the Light of Christ, that their hearts may be filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the unemployed, those in prison, and for the sick and suffering; praying for all those on our prayer list and those in our hearts, especially Lyn, Areewa, Eloise, Dave, Brenda, Rose, Shirley, Elsie, Scott, Alisande, Ted, Crystal, Elliott, Don, Marisa, Laura, Adam, Cesar, Cherie, Alice, James, Sandy, Lloyd, Julie, Justin, Parker, Edith, Mark and for those we now name....

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

For the departed, that they may have rest in that place where the angels sing gloriously for all eternity, remembering especially those we now name....

O God who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn #96

Angels we have heard on high

This morning's offering will go to our Local Outreach fund which directly serves families and individuals in need within our community

The Great Thanksgiving – B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

(printed on page 8 of the Worship Guide)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

(printed on page 9 of the Worship Guide)

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

This is our Lord's Table, and He is our host. All persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those who have yet to be baptized are encouraged to speak with the clergy after the service about becoming baptized into Christ's Body.

Gluten-free hosts and alcohol-free wine are available upon request at the rail.

Communion Music

Hymn #101 *Away in a manger*
Hymn #115 *What child is this*

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray:

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Procession to the Neighborhood

Hymn #105 *God rest you merry, gentlemen*

St. Matthew Mission Statement

St. Matthew Church: To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Merry Christmas!

Special Ministers Today

Priest	The Rev. Kendall Haynes
Worship Leader	Dick Elofson
Lector	
Acolytes	Zawadi Chege Nicholas Yoeun
Bread Maker	Marian Oberg
Altar Guild	Jill Little Sue Inglis Lorina Goodjoint Florence Nabaggala
Altar Guild Director	Linda Pomeroy-Hull

St Matthew Episcopal Church Staff

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ our Lord
Bishop of Olympia	The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel
Priest in Charge	The Rev. Kendall Haynes
Parish Administrator	Dave Noll
Church Sexton	Saray Yuorn
Pianist	Maria McKanzie
Church Photographer	John Hibben

St Matthew Episcopal Church Vestry

Sr. Warden	Terry Elofson
Jr. Warden	Sueann Goretti Sherry Mees Hartley
Stewardship Liaison	Jon Kuniyoshi
Liturgy & Arts Liaison	Fred Vogel
Outreach Liaison	Samuel Kamau
Marketing & Evangelism Liaison	Sueann Goretti
Christian Education Liaison	Mark Lepkowski
Pastoral Care Liaison	Liz Latsis
PLC Chairperson	Marcie Neuman

St Matthew Episcopal Church Vestry Officers

Treasurer	Frank Blacker
Clerk of the Vestry	Sandy Goretti

Today's Prayer List

Lyn Zimmerman – Myotonic Dystrophy
Areewa Saray – imprisonment
Eloise Page (friend of Tom & Elaine Taylor) – hospice
Dave Hopkins – pain management and balance
Brenda Gilbert – fighting severe health problems
Rose Barg – recovery from surgery

Shirley Ryan Rose – (neighbor of Linda Pomeroy-Hull) – continued recovery from a vascular stroke
 Elsie Forrest – Macular Degeneration, tremors, and hernia
 Scott Candoo – undiagnosed medical issues
 Alisande Watterson – tests for a health issue
 Ted Blattenbauer – (friend of Dan & Linda Pomeroy-Hull) – grieving and diagnosed with multiple myeloma
 Crystal Rose – kidney issues
 Elliott Feit – (friend of Abby Smith) – for complete healing from pain (pancreatic cancer)
 Don Barg – holding the family together
 Marisa La Rue – (friend of Kathleen Manning) – struggle with Parkinson’s disease
 Laura O’Donnell – (mother of Alex and Savannah Sloan) for recovery and healing from heart surgery
 Adam – (friend of Liz Latsis brother) – who is very sick with acute Leukemia, spine, lung and fungal infections.
 Cesar Gatbunton – (Agueda Fernandez-Webster’s sisters husband) – for recovery and healing from heart surgery
 Cherie Peterson – (sister of Bud Nalder) – suffering from dementia
 Alice Medin – (cousin of Kitty Walker) – complications following knee replacement surgery
 James Sloan – (son of Jim & Ginny Sloan) – incarcerated for a past DUI
 Sandy Green – (brother-in-law) of Alex Ringstad) – just entered into Hospice care
 Lloyd Wood – (brother of Sue & Sandy Goretti’s uncle) – Incarcerated for a DUI offense)
 Julie – (friend of Fred & Sherry Vogel) – who is facing breast cancer treatment
 Justin Smith – (husband of Abby Smith) – continued health
 Parker and his family and pets – (friend of Abby Smith)
 Edith – (friend of Abby Smith) –
 Mark – (friend of Sherry & Barney Hartley) – who was diagnosed with prostate cancer

To add someone or take someone off the prayer list, email saintmatthewpastoralcare@gmail.com .
Thanks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Outreach: Our annual “**PUT A SOCK IN IT**” drive ends on Saturday, January 2nd. Thank you to all for your generosity!

Twelfth Night Celebration—Come and join in the fun as we celebrate the Eve of the Epiphany, the feast when the wise men (representing everyone outside of the people of Israel) follow a star to Bethlehem in order to pay homage to Jesus, on **Tuesday, January 5**. The evening will begin at **5:30 pm** with wine and appetizers in the Library followed by a pot-luck dinner at **6:15 pm**. The

evening will conclude with Evening Prayer, dessert and singing. All are welcome as we celebrate the important fact that the Messiah didn’t come for a select group of people, but for everyone!!

Mark your calendar—

- Saturdays, 8AM, Men’s Breakfast in the Parish Hall
- 2nd Saturday of each month, 9AM-Noon, Julia’s Gulch
- 4th Friday of each month, 7PM JLS (Just Love Singing)
- Thursdays, 11AM, Bible Class in the library
- Thursdays, 7PM Adult Catechumenate in the library
- Sundays, 9:00AM Bridging the Gap
- Tuesday, January 5, 5:30PM Twelfth Night Celebration