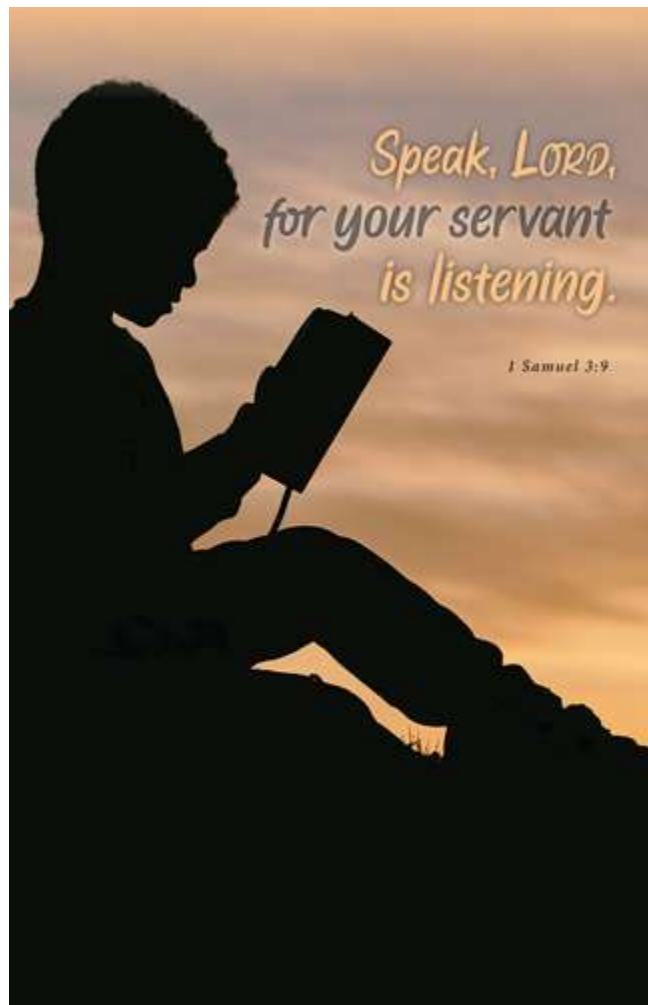




SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



JANUARY 17, 2021

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

www.stmatthewsdanube.org | Pastor Mike Kuschel | home: 320-826-2280 | cell: 320-522-2428

Little Lambs Learning Center: 100 Main St. Danube, MN | office: 320-826-2340

Prayer Before Worship: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Opening Hymn "Speak, O Lord"

**1] Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

2] Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

**3] Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT – CW page 26

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON - 1 Samuel 3:1-10

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor."

Alleluia. (Isaiah 49:3 cf. NIV)

SECOND LESSON - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹² "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Alleluia Response:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL - John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."
⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

The Holy Bible : New International Version. 1996, c1984 . Zondervan: Grand Rapids

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

Hymn - "Speak, O Savior I am Listening" CW # 283

**1] Speak, O Savior I am list'ning,
As a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor
To your holy, precious Word,
That each day, my whole life through,
I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure
And my heart's most precious treasure.**

**[2] Oh, what blessing to be near you
And to listen to your voice!
Let me ever love and fear you;
Let your Word still be my choice.
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at your Word,
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give peace and words of pardon.**

*[3] Lord, your words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;
On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing.*

**[4] As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.**

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Tune: Johann Schop, 1600-65

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Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Sermon: Speak, Your Servant is Listening

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Offering:

Please mail in your offering as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world. Thank you for your continued support!

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and ever-living God, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us the light of truth. We give you thanks for calling us into this true and living faith and graciously showering upon us abundant gifts of your grace.

Hear our prayers, heavenly Father, that your people may be shining lights in this world's darkness. To this end, grant that we may be united in brotherly love and zeal to do the holy work set before us, fervent in the purpose of our calling, steadfast in every trial, generous in hospitality, and holding fast to all that is good. Grant that we who are called out of darkness into the marvelous light of Christ may in the same way show forth his praises.

Give stability, peace, and tranquility to the nations of the earth and deliver all people from famine, pestilence, fire, flood, storm, earthquake and every peril. Bestow a special measure of grace, O God, upon our homes. We implore your mercy for all who may be in any special want or need of body or soul, giving them the light of hope in place of despair.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, save us and all people from the hidden perils that surround us, and defend us now and always, even to that hour when you will call us from this earthly tabernacle to dwell in your house forever and ever. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

M: Lift up your hearts

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

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory, You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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 his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (spoken by all):

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Distribution:

Please note that communion will be distributed as you are dismissed.

Please approach the designated table at the direction of the usher and after you have received communion you may depart in peace.



Announcements - View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230

St. John's Renville
209 Bryant Ave NE
PO Box 416 - Renville, MN 56284

St. Matthew Flora Twp.
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon. If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

We realize that not everyone will be ready or ought to return to public worship as our congregations reopen. We would like to encourage all those who are unable to come to worship or unsure if they ought to come to continue to make use of local radio, television, and online ministries. Below is a listing of different ministries available on different forms of media.

Television: Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit timeofgrace.org to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

Radio: Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways: visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources: wels.net, timeofgrace.org, nph.net forwardinchrist.net & *Meditations online at nph.net*

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

In-person worship returns to all our campuses: We will meet for in-person worship at *St. Matthew Flora Twp, St. Matthew's Danube, and St. John Renville*. We are so thankful for the opportunity to come together and worship as brothers and sisters in Christ. Please join us, as you are able. We will adhere to the protocols that we have put in place. Remember to wash your hands, wear a mask for the entire service, watch your distance, and please stay home if you are not feeling well. Monitor closely any symptoms you might have. Don't forget that you can contact your pastor if you are in need of additional support and counsel. Above all, trust in the Lord and call on his name for he has graciously placed his name on you. *May the LORD bless you and keep you.*

Sunday School Planning to Return for in-person instruction

St. John's Renville has resumed in-person catechism instruction. St. Matthew's Danube is planning a return to in-person instruction on January 24. We invite our parents to make use of either in-person instruction or the online resources. Online Sunday School lessons and materials will continue to be shared throughout the winter and spring months.

Catechism: Pastor will be contacting parents about a schedule for the return of in-person instruction and a shift to a different time frame during Lent. May God bless the students as they grow in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Bible Information Class - Wednesdays at 6:30pm

If you would like to join us for Bible Information Class we will be meeting in the main part of the church on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. Bible information class serves as a membership class as well as a good refresher of biblical doctrine for our current members.

Offering Envelopes Available: Offering envelopes are available to pick up at each of our churches. We thank you for your continued support of the gospel ministry as we seek to share the good news of Jesus throughout Renville county and the world. If you would like your envelopes brought to you, please contact an elder or Pastor Kuschel.

Tuesday Bible Class Returns on January 19: A Bible Class is being planned for Tuesday afternoons at 1:00pm. We hope to include both an in-person and online option so that you can come to church for class or tune in live using Zoom. You may also be able to watch archived lessons on our website. Our first course will focus on God's Faithfulness. Email Pastor Kuschel (pastorkuschel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating online.

Volunteer Janitors Needed! Volunteer janitors are needed at St. John's Renville. Please consider signing up for upcoming open dates. Contact Terry Roschild for more information.

Personal Word of Thanks: My family and I would like to extend our thanks for all the cards, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, and gestures of appreciation this past Christmas season. Thank you! We give thanks to God for this community of believers.

Upcoming Meetings:

St. John's Renville Council Meeting – January 18 @ 7:30 pm.

St. Matthew Flora Twp. Annual Meeting – January 24 after worship

St. John's Renville Annual Meeting – January 31 after worship

St. Matthew's Danube Annual Meeting – February 7 at 1:30pm

As we consider and review the challenges and blessings of the year gone by, we pray that God would bless and direct our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our members, our community, and the world. Please, contact Pastor Kuschel if you have any questions or corrections concerning our posted schedule of services, classes, events, and meetings. May God continue to bless us for many years to come with the good news of Jesus Christ, who came to be our substitute and Savior. May he give us ears willing to listen and hearts ready to receive his Word.

Tri-Parish Worship Schedule

St. Matthew Flora Twp – 8:00am, St. Matthew's Danube – 9:30am, St. John's Renville – 8:00am