

St Matthews Service

Rev. Christopher LaBoube

January 31, 2021

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

"Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all you ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your path." **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

ACTIVE

CHRISTIANS

TOGETHER

IN

OUTREACH

&

NURTURE



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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4th Sunday after the Epiphany
31 January 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton, IA
Deuteronomy 18:15–20 / Psalm 111 / 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 / Mark 1:21–28

Sermon Title: Seek the Truth in Jesus.
Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our LORD Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim. 1:2) Amen.

One thing I really like about the Bible is how everything is connected. You can read some passage in the New Testament that is quoted from the Old Testament. Paul does that a lot in his letters. Many of these Old Testament passages that are quoted in the New Testament focus on Jesus, the Messiah, who was promised from the beginning of time.

If someone says that they don’t see Jesus in the Old Testament, therefore we need to get rid of the Old Testament, then I’d say, you might as well get rid of the entire Bible. Why? Because Jesus is clearly pictured all throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Today’s Old Testament lesson is one of the passages that clearly shows us Jesus in the Old Testament. Our text is taken from a sermon that Moses preached over three thousand four hundred years ago. We pick up the sermon in Deuteronomy chapter 18 beginning at verse 15:

“¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly (see Deut. 9:10), when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ (Ex. 20:18-21) ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. (Deut. 5:28) ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth (Jer. 1:9; 5:14), and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

Here in Moses’ sermon, he starts preaching about the coming of another prophet. *“¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.”*

Moses doesn’t say that this Prophet will magically appear one day. No, in fact Moses preaches that this Prophet will come from among the current population of the Israelites. This Prophet will be a future descendant of one of the tribes of Israel.

Moses is preaching about this one particular Prophet, who will come, one day, because back in Genesis 3:15, God promised that he would send a Savior—someone, who would fulfill all of God’s Laws and would make satisfaction for God’s punishment for all people, since all people have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.

“¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the

day of the assembly (see Deut. 9:10), when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' (Ex. 20:18-21) ¹⁷ *And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. (Deut. 5:28) ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth (Jer. 1:9; 5:14), and he shall speak to them all that I command him.'* (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

Moses wants the future generations of Israelites to remember the promise that God made back in Genesis to send a Prophet—a Savior—who would redeem all mankind from going to hell. Moses tells the Israelites that they should listen to this Prophet, and that they should have the same awe and respect for this Prophet, because this Prophet will speak only what God tells him to say.

We also hear Moses telling the Israelites—and telling us—how important it is to fear, love and trust in God above all things—as we understand the First Commandment. *“¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly (see Deut. 9:10), when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'* (Ex. 20:18-21) ¹⁷ *And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. (Deut. 5:28)*

God is as approachable as a close friend or family member, but God cannot be in the presence of sin. So when you and I sin, when we do and say things against God and against someone else, then we are not able to be in close proximity to God. But, *“If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

When we confess our sins—acknowledge that we have said or done something against God and someone else, then we are fearing, loving and trusting in God above all things. When we confess our sins and receive God’s gracious forgiveness, then we work on restoring that broken relationship.

Moses preached about the importance of restoring and maintaining that relationship with God. When we listen to God’s Word—when we confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness—then we are able to grow more in the grace and knowledge of what the Prophet will do for us.

God said through Moses: *“¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth (Jer. 1:9; 5:14), and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”* (Deuteronomy 18:18)

Moses keeps stressing the importance of listening to what this Prophet says. Moses says later that when the people ignore God’s Word—when they turn away from God’s Word—when they reject God’s Word—that bad things will happen.

And we see the results today in our own country of people in the past and the decisions that they made. Why else do we have large groups of people in our country, who think that it’s perfectly acceptable to kill unborn babies—or to have surgery to try and change from being a man to being a woman—or to eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die?

There are so many things that people have done in the past—things that are contrary to God’s Word—and yet some folks consider perfectly acceptable. Abortion—divorce—gay marriage—the list goes on and on. It’s a sad situation that we live with today.

Many people have turned from God and have become his enemies, and some of those people celebrate that fact. And that is a terrible sad situation to be in. In fact, all of these actions that are contrary to God’s Word are the obvious results of sin in our lives.

Paul tells us this in Romans chapter 12: *“as it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;*

no one does good, not even one.’” (Romans 3:10-12)

Moses preached about the importance of following God’s Word—desiring to follow him and not to follow the pagans of this world. This is why Moses preached about the Prophet, who would come after him, and who he wanted the Israelites to listen to and do what he said.

We know what has happened—this Prophet is Jesus, who was born in a barn—lived his life perfectly—was killed on a cross—and then three days later was raised from the dead for the forgiveness of your sins. This is the Prophet, who Moses preached about.

We know that this Prophet—this Jesus—speaks only what God our Heavenly Father tells him to speak. Jesus listens to God the Father and that is what he speaks. So we know that when Jesus speaks that he is only speaking truth.

God also uses ordinary men, who will prophesy and preach the truth of God’s Word. Many of these prophets and priests will speak only the truth from God’s Word. Sadly, though, some of these alleged prophets or priests will not be speaking the truth from God’s Word. These false prophets are simply preaching and teaching what the people want to hear—not necessarily what God wants them to hear.

We see this happening today, and all throughout history—some men and women, who claim to have a message from God—but they are not speaking the truth from God’s Word. *“¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words (Jer. 29:19; 35:13) that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak (Deut. 13:5), or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”* (Deuteronomy 18:19-20)

God does not like people, who speak lies in his name—people, who claim that they are preaching a true prophetic message from God, but in fact they are just making up stuff. God takes distributing his Word seriously. *“²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak (Deut. 13:5), or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”*

Throughout history, we can read about any number of men and women, who claimed that they were able to tell about a future event or even predict when the world would end and Jesus would come One Last Time. Of course, none of these prophetic messages came true.

God’s Word is rock solid, and yet some people—even some alleged Christians—claim that they understand the truth of God’s Word, but deny its power. Some Christians convince themselves that the way that they understand the Bible is the only way—and everyone else is wrong.

I often think, if the same message of the Bible has been taught throughout the centuries that we continue to preach and teach in this church, then how could so many Christians over the centuries be wrong? But Moses tells us how we can know if what a prophet or priest says is really true.

“²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.’” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

When a prophet or priest speaks, and the people question whether this man was actually speaking the truth from God’s Word, then they simply wait to see if what he said comes true. If it come true, then the people will know for a fact that what he said came from God. But, if what he said does

not happen, then the people will know that what that alleged prophet said was not from God, and the people can ignore him.

Today you can follow the same pattern. If what I preach and teach is questionable, you can do two things—read in the Bible yourself and see if what I said is actually in the Bible. You can also wait to see if what I said actually happens. Then, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

When you read or listen to the Bible regularly, then you are filling up with Jesus regularly. When you fill up with Jesus, then you will know if a pastor on TV or the internet gives some prophetic message, then you do the two things I suggested: 1) dig into the Bible to see if what the TV pastor said is true, and then 2) wait and see if what he said will actually happen. The truth of God's Word will never lie. It will always set you free. Seek the truth from God's Word alone. Amen.

Now, may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard and keep your hearts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you so much for the cookies at Christmas time. They were so good. Joyce Kruse, God's Blessings to all of you.

Thank you Dear Ladies of St. Matthew, thank you so much for the plate of delicious cookies. I'm sorry I missed you. It didn't take me very long to sample them. Thank you for thinking of me in such a "sweet" way. Bonnie Banks.

Thank you for the gift card from Fiesta Foods. I feel very blessed to receive this gift. Linda Maynard

Thank you for thinking of us and for the cookies, they are going down very well and are very good. Both of us are doing fine, but just staying away due to COVID-19 as our doctors had advised. Darlene & Jerry Albers.

Thank you The Kueny's thank you for your thoughtfulness and prayers during Jim's recovery from surgery. He is recovering and doing well. God bless each of you for your prayers. Jim and Karen Kueny.

Bandow Scholarship Application-Form will be in church office. For graduates seeking to go into the ministry, or parochial school teacher. The scholarship application along with a letter of recommendation from your minister must be typed and received no later than June 1, 2021. More details in the office.

<u>Give the office a call or the Pastor...</u>	Need a ride to a Dr's appt	Need of a visit
Before going to hospital	Address or name changes	Birth of your baby
Private communion	Entering armed services	Making wedding plans
Desire to serve your Lord through the Church	Death in the family	

God Our Maker



THE APOSTLES' CREED—THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13–14)

FOR SHARING

1. A Bible translator was working on a native dialect. His biggest challenge was to find a word in the language for *believe*. As he was working one day, a young man who had converted to Christianity came into his hut. He had run from a nearby village with a message and was out of breath. Before he could convey the message, he had to sit. As he plopped down into a chair, he said in his language, "Before I give you this message, I need to put all of me into this chair and rest." Suddenly the translator had the word he needed for *believe*: "put all of me into this and rest." What kinds of things do people today "put themselves into and rest"?
2. "My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him" (Psalm 62:1). How does God provide our soul with rest?
3. Luther explains that every aspect of life—both physical and spiritual—is God's gift. In what ways does creation bear witness to God's goodness and kindness?
4. St. Paul expressed his confidence, "My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). How does the cross reveal the depth of God's love and care for the world? for you personally?
5. In all of creation, there is no one exactly like you. For what specific qualities and talents are you most thankful?

PRAYER

O Lord, I thank You that You have given me all that I need in this life and have given me the hope of eternal life. Help me to remember that You keep "all of me" in Your care. May I live as one who carries the gracious promises of a loving Creator. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PARAMENTS ON OUR ALTAR:

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son. Color's Purpose However, color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners, traditionally employed each Sunday, must be seen as more than an attempt to decorate, or give accent to the chancel. That is, no doubt, the view of some. It's true; interior design and decoration are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings "pretty." Furthermore, when altar paraments are used year after year without much attention given to their message, as well as their care, the pastor, along with his faithful altar guild would do well to throw away the key to the sacristy and refrain from using those altar cloth "decorations." Frequent instruction about the church year and its corresponding colors must go hand in hand with its weekly use

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received. Color allows us to see the Light of Life, Jesus Christ. It serves to communicate the message of salvation. And communicate it does when it reinforces a specific "colorful" chapter in the life of our Lord and his church, retold annually by the church calendar.

Symbolism of Colors It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar clothes, banners is an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the "Bg-BgsPwr" color scheme rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

Green, comes next in the acronym and is by far the most common color seen during the year. *Lutheran Service Book* calls for its use during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. The first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21), also known as Easter Sunday, determines the length of these two seasons. The days of Epiphany may entail a total of, but not more than, eight Sundays. The season of Pentecost, on the other hand, can last from 22 to 28 Sundays. **Green** is the appointed color for all but a few of the Sundays during these seasons. Consequently, **green** may be used an average of six to eight months of any given liturgical year! Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of **green**—the color symbolic of growth. The Sundays following Pentecost, observed as "the time of the church," share a somewhat similar theme as that of Epiphany. Affectionately called the season of the "**green meadow**," no doubt due to the fact of **green** being the established color, these Sundays also emphasize the subject of growth. **Green** is a neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "**green meadow**" time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace. A helpful suggestion for congregations observing summer and fall months with one neutral color, would be to invest time and effort in obtaining several sets of **green** paraments. Variety and change in shades of this color would go a long way in keeping the season fresh and "**green**." Changing the paraments every six weeks would complement the Sundays following Pentecost and their emphasis on personal faith that is living and growing.

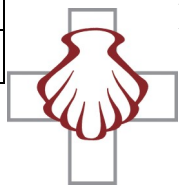
Douglas K. Escue—pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Originally published in *Lutheran Worship Notes*, Issue 29, 1994.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Name		Baptism
Andre	Robert	Jan 17, 1947
Bruhn	Presley	Jan 10, 2010
Bruhn	Hudson	Jan 22, 2012
Else	James	Jan 1, 1954
Holmes	Janeal	Jan 20, 1952
McGrain	Erika	Jan 29, 1994
Namanny	Melinda	Jan 22, 1989
Schmidt	Paige	Jan 22, 2006
Schmidt	Kurt	Jan 4, 1981
Schrader	Selma	Jan 26, 1930



We are listing
Baptismal birthdays
to remember and
celebrate the day we were
adopted into the family of God
through the washing of the
Holy Spirit.



Dennis & Pam Jahn	01-05-1975	46 yrs.
Christopher & Christina LaBoube	01-10-2015	6 yrs.
Hans & Lavone Witzel	01-06-1957	64 yrs.

BIRTHDAYS

Name		Birthday
Andre	Robert	Jan 17, 1947
Brodersen	Kaylee	Jan 31, 2005
Bruhn	Jessica	Jan 14, 1986
Dose	Florice	Jan 9, 1935 86
Dose	Carol	Jan 22, 1934 87
Gosch	Myrna	Jan 9, 1941 80
Goslar	Marshall	Jan 31, 1973
Gronwoldt	Virgil	Jan 3, 1961
Kuehl	Judy	Jan 23, 1945
Namanny	Melinda	Jan 25, 1958
Miller	Tari	Jan 7, 1994
Phillips	Marlene	Jan 17, 1936 85
Pithan	Derek	Jan 14, 2013
Pithan	Emma	Jan 8, 2009
Schmidt	Paige	Jan 11, 2006
Schmidt	Troy	Jan 27, 2009
Witzel	Lavone	Jan 31, 1938 83
Hamann	Katelynn	Jan 1, 1992

Faith Step: To whom do you need to show grace today? Give that person the same grace that Jesus grants you.

NEEDED /WEEK	\$3,225.02
TOTAL GIVING 01-17 & 01-24	\$2,317.00
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (01-24-21)	30
SUNDAY COMMUNED (01-24-21)	NA
Children in Church (01-24-21)	4
VISITORS (01-24-21)	2
BIBLE CLASS (01-24-21)	11
SUNDAY SCHOOL (01-24-21)	5

	<u>Week of Schedule 02-01 to 02-07</u>
Mon (1)	Pastor's Family Day
Tues (2)	Board of Elders 7 pm
Wed (3)	Confirmation Class 6 pm to 7 pm Helping Hands, at 1:00 to 4 pm
Sun (7)	5th Sun. after Epiphany; Church Services w/ Holy Comm. 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am

Please continue to pray for our church leaders.



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." **Romans 12:12**

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

PRAYER WARRIORS— The prayer warriors desire to hear from you as to how they can pray for you. We have 14 prayer warriors. We welcome more men and women to join us. if you need prayer call **Alice Miller** phone number 712-880-2380.

Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek

Carol Dose

Selma Schrader

Lavonne Witzel

Myrna Gosch

Kathy Trucke

Alan Bruhn

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

Sheri Heilman— Sue Oberg's sister; **Ron Kraffle** friend of Marla & Joe Hogan; **Lynn Smith** friend of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Jazmin Mauch**, granddaughter of Marla and Joe Hogan; **Penny Mauch** friend of Marilyn & Duane Hamann; **Tammy Jean Bramley**, mother of Sam Kelm

Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.

Bonnie Banks 86 yrs. Jun 2, 1934

Main Street Apartments

516 Main Street Apt 2

Mapleton, IA 51034

George Koithan 88 yrs. Sept. 2, 1932

1726 Marcella Heights

Carroll, IA 51040

Delores Boysen 81 yrs. Mar. 5, 1939

31153 Juinter Ave

Hinton, IA 51024

Delbert Kroll 87 yrs. Jun. 1, 1933

Ring Street

Mapleton IA 51034

Myrna Gosch 79 yrs. Jan 9, 1941

Pleasant View Care Center

200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108

Whiting, IA 51063

Phyllis Fick 92 yrs. Jun 3, 1928

Willow Dale Care—Assisted Living

404 1st St.

Battle Creek, IA 51006

Carol Dose 86 yrs. Jan. 22, 1934

Sunrise Ave.

Maple Heights Nursing Home

** indicates a new address

Those on our prayer list:

Nazaria Kaderabek

310 S. 6th St.

Mapleton, IA 51034

Selma Schrader

21 Ohm Drive

Mapleton, IA 51034

Sheri Heilman

(Sue Oberg's sister)

1721 Lincoln Street

Great Bend, KS 67530

Tammy Bramley

42715 210th St.

Ute, IA 51060

Kathy Trucke

303 S 7th Street

Mapleton, IA 51034

Lavonne Witzel

36252 Co. Hwy E 34

Castana, IA 51010

Alan Bruhn

14535 Walnut Ave

Mapleton, IA 51034

God
is watching
over you.
I know because
I asked
Him to

Spread the Fruits of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self-Control, Goodness, and Faithfulness. You will be rewarded



St Matthew Lutheran Church
504 Walnut Street
Mapleton, IA 51034

LET'S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS BY

READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: St. Matthew Lutheran Church Service at 9:30 am every Sunday at the church. Facebook page-.St. Matthew Lutheran-Mapleton- Our services at 9:30 am every Sunday website: www.stmatthewmapleton.org – Our services posted weekly **Mission Central...** www.missioncentral.us **Lutheran Family Service:** www.lfsiowa.org **WEB SITES:** Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org Camp Okoboji – www.campokoboji.org **“THY STRONG WORD”** is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) **“THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN -FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit www.lhm.org and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page **“THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR”** airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—KAYL 101.5 FM **Lutheran Family Services:** www.lofsiowa.org **MainStreet Living**— is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.

Dear God,

Thank you for your extravagant love. Let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with it so we could experience what it is to be loved by you. Help us to live in your love and love others with your love. In Jesus' name, Amen

