

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“THE VOICE-PREPARES THE WAY”

(Text: Luke 3:1-14)

The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P. Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...

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

BENEDICTION

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

CLOSING SONG “Light One Candle” (sts. 1-3)

1. Light one candle for hope,
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev’ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

2. Light one candle for peace,
one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev’ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

(continued...)

Light one candle for joy,
one bright candle for joy,
Ev’ry nation will find salvation
in Beth’em’s baby boy.

3. Light one candle for love,
one bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!

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P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

* * * **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** * * *

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THE CONNECTION

December 8, 2024 10:30am

PRELUDE / WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS (please fill out Friendship Pads)

WORSHIP SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357, sts. 1-4)

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P. Almighty God, have mercy on us for Christ’s sake.

C. Almighty God, I am unworthy of You and Your grace and mercy. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. And I cannot free myself from this condition. Therefore, I take refuge in Your loving-kindness; and I ask for Your forgiveness. We ask for Your forgiveness.

P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, “You are forgiven.” In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST READING *Malachi 3:1-7b*

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

L. Here ends the first reading.

SECOND READING *Philippians 1:2-11*

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and con-

firmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L. Here ends the second reading.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING *Luke 3:1-14*

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

(continued...)

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *Apostles’ Creed*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

(Please sit)

TITHES & OFFERING

(While the music is playing, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the plate.)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE SONG

“On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”
(LSB 344, sts. 1-5)