

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 7 & 8, 2024 4:30 PM & 8:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth. Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark Twain is sometimes attributed with the quote "Never put off till tomorrow what may be done the day after tomorrow just as well." Though a humorous take on the problem of procrastination, there is a reality to the fact that we often are people who put things off until later, or even until it is too late. Thankfully, procrastinating is not an attribute of the one true God. As we focus on the Epistle from Philippians 1, we are reminded that the Lord always completes what He begins at His time. Even as we continue in our Advent season, we are assured that "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law" (Galatians 4:4–5).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB* 357, sts. 1-4

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6–8*

Pastor: We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased,” we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: “There are many who say, ‘Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD!’

People: **You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

Pastor: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

People: **for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”**

(Two Advent candles are lit.)

(Please stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4; Luke 3:5–6; Philippians 1:6*

Pastor: Malachi prophesies about and John the Baptist fulfills the call of the one who would prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist would preach a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We, too, seek the forgiveness our Lord has promised, and our Savior gives us assurance as we come before Him in humble repentance. Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and prepare again to receive Him who came in our flesh, comes through His Word and in His body and blood given and shed for us, and promises to come again, let us stand before Him in humble and contrite confession.

People: **We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and left undone, and we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.**

Pastor: We have not loved the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,

People: **and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Pastor: We justly deserve present and eternal punishment, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray:

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Every 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, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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 the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

Pastor: The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

**People: Hear, O My people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!
I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
But My people did not listen to My voice;
Israel would not submit to Me.
Oh, that My people would listen to Me,
that Israel would walk in My ways!**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

KYRIE (Spoken by Pastor; Sung by Congregation)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Prepare our hearts room, O Lord, to receive with peace and joy the Savior made flesh, that at Your time of completion we may be found with faith and trust remaining in You,

People: **with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 3:1–7b*

(The messenger to prepare the way of the Lord)

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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM **Psalm 66:1–12**

P: ¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
²sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

C: ³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

P: ⁴All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”

C: ⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

P: ⁶He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

C: There did we rejoice in him, ⁷who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

P: ⁸Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

C: ⁹who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

P: ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

C: ¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

P: ¹²you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:2–11* (Paul's thanksgiving and prayer)

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 confirmation 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Pastor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

People: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 3:1–14* (John the Baptist prepares the way)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

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.” *(continued...)*

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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LSB 344, sts. 1-5

SERMON "THE VOICE-PREPARES THE WAY" (Luke 3:1-14)

The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

CREED *Nicene Creed* (See inside back cover of hymnal or the screens.)

(Please sit)

TITHES AND OFFERING (8:00 ONLY – "O Come to Us, Emmanuel" ~Trinity Choir)

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Philippians 1:3-11*

Pastor: Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gathering of us together around Word and Sacrament, as You call, gather, and enlighten us through Your Spirit. Keep Your church united in truth, as Christ has completed His work for the sake of humanity as we await His return. As You continue to work in us and through us Your grace and mercy, empower us by Your Spirit to live holy lives according to Your will and to live as Your witnesses among our neighbors, coworkers, and community. As we pray to You now, we also pray with Paul upon ourselves and all believers who call upon Your name:

People: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And 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."

Pastor: Be with all who bear Your Word, including those who serve as missionaries both near and far. Grant open ears and eager hearts to receive the good news of a Savior given, and forgiveness assured. For all who face trials, persecution, and even death for confessing Your name, grant a steadfastness of faith even in the most dire times.

People: "It 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 confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Pastor: For all who are sick, lonely, and in need of comfort, we lift them up to You, [*including . . .*]. According to Your will, grant healing. According to Your promises, remain with them with the comfort and peace of Your presence in times of affliction. Be with doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they use the gifts and abilities given to them. Help us and others to serve as Your instruments that we may show compassion in times of need, speak words of hope in times of hopelessness, and serve according to needs had in times of helplessness. For all people, as we prepare to receive and rejoice in the Savior given and born for us, keep us prepared for the day of His coming again.

People: **“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

(Additional petitions may follow.)

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

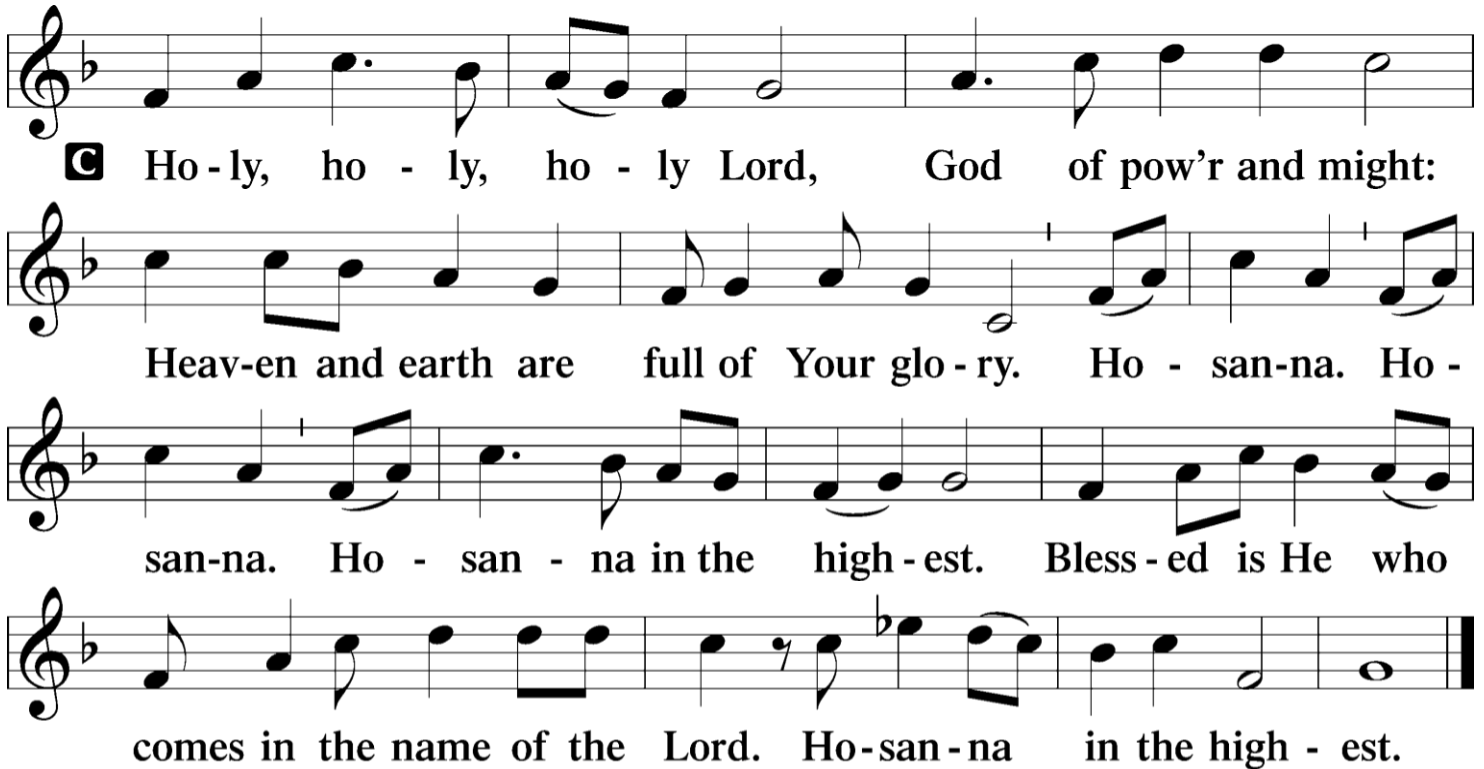
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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, who has begun a good work in us that will be brought to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the work for which Jesus was sent and born into this world has been completed for us through His perfect life, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, and glorious ascension, with the promise to come again and to come to us now for the forgiveness of sins through His true body and true blood given and shed for us. 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


C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior, for whom John the Baptist prepared the way proclaiming a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. We thank You for all the work of Your hands and for all the words You have spoken and kept, as You come to us still now with Your healing grace through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when 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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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**

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**“Prepare the Royal Highway”**

LSB 343, sts. 1-4

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347, sts. 1-4

(Please stand)**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)**


1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: We thank and praise You for the work Christ has completed for our sake and for our forgiveness, received again through His body and blood given and shed for us. Continue to work in us and through us from the grace we have received from our lips to our being, that

People: **He who has began a good work in us may bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1:5, 9*

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

HYMN **“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”** *LSB 342, sts. 1-4*

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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