

**Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 6-11, '21**

**Mon Malachi 3:1-7b** This may not sound like the usual Advent message, but take a few minutes to read the entire book and get captivated by the dialogue between the LORD and Israel. When Jesus arrives (1), He will clean house (2-3) and set things straight (4-5), for He has always been merciful (6). When Israel reneged on its side of the contract, God as much as said: "Well, then, I will cover your lapse all by Myself." (7)

**Tues Luke 3:1-6** God set the stage for Jesus' birth via His advance agent, John (2). Now, what did God want from His people? Repentance! "If you want Me to wash you clean, you must quit playing in the manure pile." (3) Isaiah pictured repentance as road construction (4-5) through valleys of low-down dirtiness and mountains of lofty self-righteousness--so that God's gift would travel over all obstacles and arrive at our doorstep to find home in our hearts. Even so come, Lord Jesus!

**Wed Philippians 1:3-11** *Until the day of Jesus Christ* (6) = Advent. The Apostle Paul was oriented toward Jesus' second Advent, as were these Christians, and as we are too, for every day on planet Earth brings us closer to Jesus' second Advent. Paul's greetings and confession humble us, for who of us tells others that we *have them in our heart*, that we have such longing for them that even our innards are affected (8) because we have not seen them during this pandemic? Lord Jesus, increase our love!

**Thurs Malachi 3:16-4:6** Let's spend a few more moments with the word of God spoken via Malachi; when those who revered the LORD spoke to one another about Jesus, the LORD listened and was moved to commemorate them (16-17)--in contrast to the horrible fate reserved for the ungodly (4:1). God wants us to know that our future is loaded with blessings (2). Note: the closing verses of the Old Testament segue into Luke 1:13-17.

**Fri Luke 1:13-17** *Your prayer is heard* for Messiah to arrive, and your family will help *make ready a people prepared* for His arrival. Making people *ready* to receive the Advent blessing means bringing them to repent and *become as little children*—just as *turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the justified* is part-and-parcel of Advent repentance. All of which makes them prepared, ready, and receptive to Jesus' arrival.

**Sat Philippians 3:1-11** Paul acknowledges that while others might brag about their Jewishness, he had been brought to realize that being a super Jew (which he certainly was) was spiritual trash (4-7) in contrast to the spiritual superiority gifted to him when the Spirit brought him to depend on Christ's person and accomplishments (8-12). Do we have any better claim on *finally* leaving the cemetery behind us (11)? No, for we lay claim to Jesus.

**December 5, 2021**

**Advent 2**

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne

# Prepare the Way of the LORD



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## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

*Psalm 24:3-8*

<sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

## ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

**P** Pastor

### OPENING PRAYER

**C** Congregation

**HYMN: TLH #58:1,3-5**

**“Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?”**

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

**C** Amen.

### CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION:

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C** **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.**

✠ 2 ✠

## ✠ Announcements ✠

**Pastoral Call** The Lord has given me the opportunity to carefully consider two different calls. Last Sunday afternoon, I received the call from Faith Lutheran Church in Manchester, MO, to serve the Lord

✠ **Dec. 5:** Elders & Council Mtgs.  
✠ **Dec. 5:** Communion Service  
✠ **Dec. 5:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a  
✠ **Dec. 8:** Midweek Advent 6:30p  
✠ **Dec. 12:** Orlando Service 8a  
✠ **Dec. 12:** Bible Class & SS 9:15a

as their pastor. I pray for the Lord's guidance as to where the gifts I have been given can best be used. I also would ask that you all pray that the Lord would clearly give me an answer where I can best serve Him and His people. My hope and prayer is that this call will give each of us the opportunity to reflect on the Lord's use of us in His kingdom. I encourage any of your thoughts and comments as I deliberate this call. May the Lord's will be done.

**Christmas Eve Preparations** The adult choir will be meeting after church to practice songs for the upcoming Christmas Eve service. Also, candy is being collected for Christmas Eve goodie bags for the children. If you are able to donate candy or money for this, please speak with Teresa.

**CLC Call News** **Pastor Sam Rodebaugh** of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, **has received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> **Pastor Neal Radichel** of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, **has returned** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. <> After 24 years of teaching at Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, Susan Rehm has asked for a **peaceful release** from her call effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

**Shut-in/Encouragement List** **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Greg Tincer** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and suffered a recent fall. **Liz Hartmann** had two surgeries this past week in Miami for the tumor behind her eye, early reports are of a successful surgery.

**Last Week:** WH – 36 | Orlando – 14 | Wednesday Advent – 17

**Total Offering = \$1,173.50**

General = \$968.50 | Missions = \$20 | Property Improvement = \$110

Benevolence = \$25 | ILC Scholarship = \$50

**Cleaner (12/12):** Bernthal | **Acolyte (12/13):** Landon Goodwin

✠ 7 ✠

✠ Did the Father also die for you? **No, the Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is true God and true man; He shed His blood and died for me.**

✠ How do you know this? **I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.**

**P** These are those Words of God: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Communion Today is for Members Only Please**

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

*Please remain seated.*

**P** Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.

**HYMN: TLH #755:1,2,5**

**"What Is This Bread?"**

### **THE BENEDICTION:**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**G Amen!**

**HYMN: TLH #63**

**"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 81:8, 10-11, 13; Luke 3:4b*

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

**P** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

**G** Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

**P** I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

**G** But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

**P** Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

**G** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**P** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Malachi 3:1-4** "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. <sup>2</sup> But 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. <sup>3</sup> He 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**EPISTLE READING – Philippians 1:3-11** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## HYMN: TLH #61

### “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

**SERMON – Luke 3:1-6** In 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, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As 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.' <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

## A Good Road Changes Everything

- I. A road to the heart first leveled by God's Law
- II. A road to the heart first traveled by God's Son

## HYMN: WS #701

### “Prepare the Royal Highway”



## – OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

*Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:*



## OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1

### “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

**☩ ♪ We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

## PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER

- ✠ *Do you believe that you are a sinner? Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.*
- ✠ *How do you know this? I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.*
- ✠ *Are you sorry for your sins? Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.*
- ✠ *What have you deserved to receive from God because of your sins? I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.*
- ✠ *Do you also hope to be saved? Yes, this is my hope.*
- ✠ *Whom do you then trust? I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.*
- ✠ *Who is Christ? Christ is God's Son, true God and man.*
- ✠ *How many gods are there? There is only one God, but three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- ✠ *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him? He shed His blood for me and died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.*

## The Order of Holy Communion

*The Christian Questions*

