



PREPARE
the way of
the **LORD**

Isaiah 40:3

Welcome to

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

“In Nomine Iesu”

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Ah, the holiday season is here again. A time for friends to celebrate together. A time for work parties. A time for family gatherings. A time for hustle and the bustle. Time to spend scouring the internet to finish your shopping. A time to run from store to store looking for the perfect gift.

Ah, the Christmas season is here. There's no need to run around looking for the perfect gift. That gift was given to us many centuries ago in a manger. God gave us the perfect gift of His Son. This gift forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him. Celebrate the season by giving thanks to God for the love and blessings He bestows on us, not just one day or one season, but daily, all throughout the year.

Join us each Wednesday and Sunday in worship as we prepare our hearts, minds, and lives for the coming of our Savior.

All members and guests are asked to fill out the registration card in your pew rack and place it in the basket on the table or hand it to an usher as you leave.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells

The Order of Worship

Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service One

Hymn of Invocation “*Prepare the Royal Highway*” LSB #343

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession

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

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and
just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-reflection.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by
nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against
You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have
done and by what we have left undone. We have
not loved You with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve
Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake
of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
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.**

P 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 an ordained servant of Christ, and by His
authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the
name of the Father and of the(+) Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *Ps. 81:8, 10-11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

C **“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”**

P Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
C **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.
C **Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

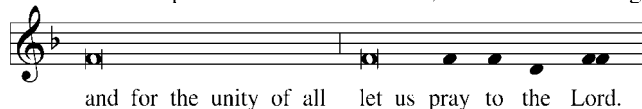
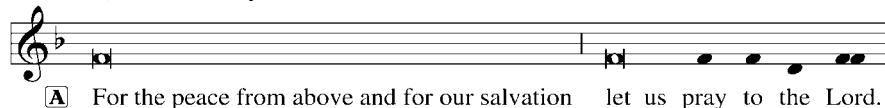
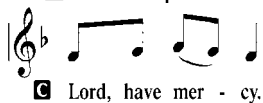
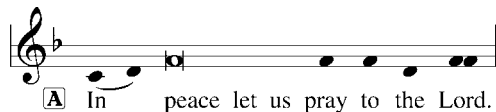
P But my people did not listen to my voice;
C **Israel would not submit to me.**

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

All **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.**

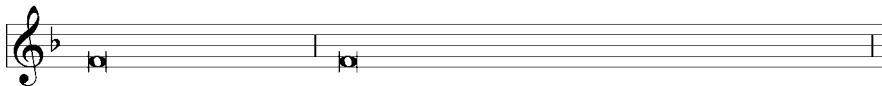
P The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
C **“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”**

Kyrie

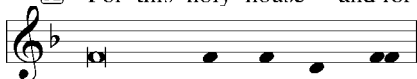




C Lord, have mer - cy.



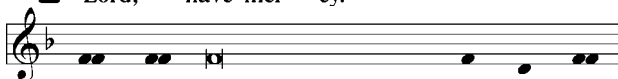
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



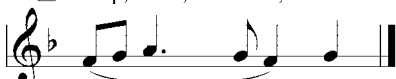
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.

All Amen.

(be seated)

Choir Anthem

"Bring Us Hope"

Words and Music by Ruth Schram

Cello: Anna Davis

Old Testament 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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ Then 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. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 1:2-11

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

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

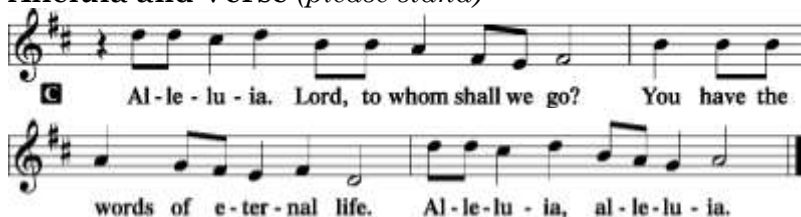
⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (*please stand*)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C **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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷ He 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?” ⁸ Bear 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. ⁹ Even 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers 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.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(be seated)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB #344

Sermon

Apostles' Creed (*please stand*)

All 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.

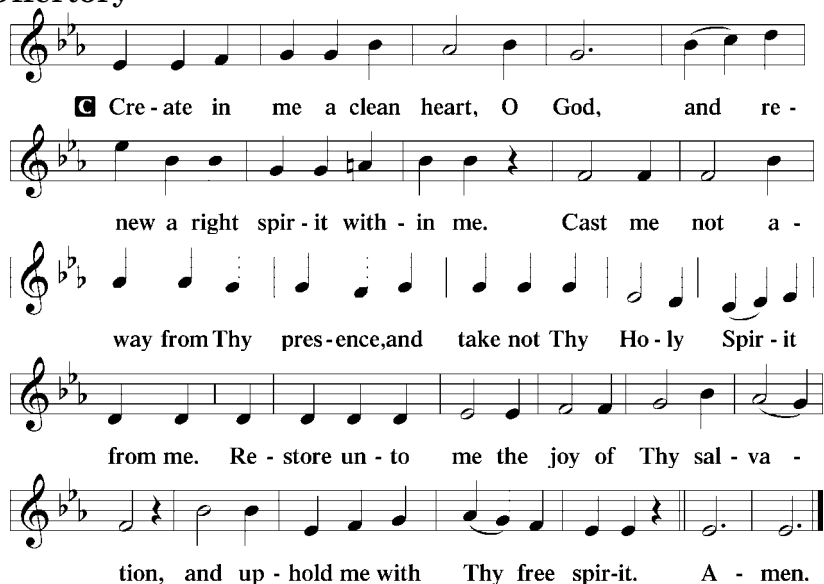
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

(*be seated*)

Presentation of the Offering and Offertory

Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All **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 *(please stand)*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and (+) give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB #349

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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