



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 129, Wilton, WI 54670  
608-435-6647  
December 9, 2018  
Second Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

#### **GATHERING** Welcome/Announcements

As God's children we are

#### **Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*You are invited to practice God's Love and Mercy by turning to those around you, greeting one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or something similar.*

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through;  
we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins;  
remember us with your steadfast love.  
Show us your ways;  
teach us your paths;  
and lead us in justice and truth,  
for the sake of your goodness  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy  
and draw water from the well of salvation.  
Remember the gift of baptism:  
your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;  
you belong to Christ;  
you are anointed to serve.  
Stand up and raise your heads!  
The reign of God is near.  
**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn      “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”      **ELW #249**

\*Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v 1 ELW#257

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**vs 3 & 6 ELW #257**

## WORD

### A Reading from Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, 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 descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <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.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from  
our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## A Reading from Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*\*Gospel Acclamation

*Insert*

## The holy gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>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 the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out 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 be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

\*Hymn                                   “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”       **ELW #256**

\*Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

\*\*Prayers of Intercession                                   (Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.)

Offering

**\*\*Offertory Hymn**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

\*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

\*The Lord’s” Prayer

ELW p. 154

Distribution

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.*

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

Prayer after Communion

**Holy One, we give you thanks  
that in this bread and cup  
we have feasted again on your endless love.  
Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,  
that we may be messengers to prepare your way,**

**harvesters of justice and righteousness,  
and bearers of your eternal Word,  
our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Hark, The Glad Sound!”

**ELW #239**

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

*Ministers:* All God's People *Pastor:* Bill Horn *Organist:* Pat Barnes

*Greeters:* Louise and Bob Buchholz *Reader:* Lori Arndt

*Communion Server:* Joel Arndt *Altar Committee:* Lori and Joel Arndt

*Ushers:* Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt, Justin Arndt, George Dougherty

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Mildred Radke, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Linda Bauer, Linda Finnigan, Bob Sullivan, Lois Schultz

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Dennis Kelly and Judy Sosinsky.

In an emergency situation, please contact Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824 or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 ©

Prayer chain contact: Nalani @608-387-2311

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