

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

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. 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 washers’ soap; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God’s grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 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. 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, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.



Sunday December 8, 2024 @ 11:00 am

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome! We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

Order of Worship Today’s Order of Worship and hymns are both located in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

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THE LINES OF THE PSALM PRINTED IN BOLD FONT ARE SUNG IN UNISON TO THE TUNE OF A FAMILIAR HYMN. THE LINES IN PLAIN FONT ARE READ BY THE LEADER.

PSALMODY # LUKE 1:68-79
Hymn Tune **ELW # 250** Blessed be the God of Israel
Melody ... Was Frag Ich Nach Der Welt 67 67 66 66

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save
us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear, holy and
righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

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

**to give God’s people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high
shall break upon us,

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

Upcoming Dates and Things to Remember

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper. From *Sundays & Seasons*, copyright @2021 Augsburg Fortress.

As most of you are aware, Sylvia Tollar has moved to be with her family near Midland. She would like to send her greetings, love and thanks to the members of our congregation and she said she keeps in touch by watching our Service.

Please take a copy of our November newsletter to friends who do not have email.

Church Council and Congregational Dinner Monday December 9th at 6 pm at M.T. Bellies. Signup sheet is at the back of the Church.

Sunday December 15th- Please join us in welcoming the Acaciawood Trio who will enhancing our worship service. Acaciawood is a Niagara-based, acoustic-inspired trio with a passion for music and love for people. Following the service, we will be hosting a complimentary festive turkey lunch. If you are planning to attend the lunch, please reply by email to Rona at stmatts@cogeco.net. There is no cost to attend this very special event.

Social Ministry Christmas Giving:

If you would like to donate to our Christmas monetary gifts for our congregational members in need, please use your regular envelope and mark it Social Ministry. Please give your donation by Sunday, December the 15th and, if you have any questions, contact Carole McLeod.

Tuesday December 24th – Christmas Eve Service 7pm,
Wednesday December 25th – Christmas Day Service 11am.

November council minutes are now posted in the Church office.

Next Church Council Meeting is Sunday January 19th, after the Service.

Our Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025, after the Church Service.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 4 Page 203

GATHERING

Silent Reflection – “Where do you see God’s Spirit sparking change and renewal in the church and in our lives”?
Prayer for Lighting of the Advent Candle (insert)
Kyrie.....ELW Page 213
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Malachi 3:1-4
Psalmody Luke 1:68-79...Hymn **ELW # 250**
Second Reading.....Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel
Acclamation.....
All: Alleluia, Alleluia
Presider: Prepare the way of the Lord.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
All: Alleluia, Alleluia
Gospel.....Luke 3:1-6
Sermon
Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 255** There’s a Voice in the Wilderness
Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving...ELW.....Page 152
Holy, Holy, Holy.....ELW.....Page 153
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer.....ELW....Page 154
O Lamb of God.....ELW....Page 154
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements
Blessing
Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 239**
Hark, the Glad Sound!
DismissalELW....Page 222
Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
“Thanks be to God”