

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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Second Sunday in Advent ~ December 8, 2024

Color of the Day: BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope.

Opening Hymn #838 - *The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place*
Confession and Absolution Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 186

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

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”
Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*

O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten 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 sub- | mit to me.
Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*
that Israel would walk | in my ways!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
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 Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis (Omitted during Advent). Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

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.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

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. 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. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

Gradual. Page 190

Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Page 190

Philippians 1:2-11

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.

Choral Anthem
Alleluia & Verse Page 190

Holy Gospel. Page 190

Luke 3:1-20

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.” 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.” ¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John 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 with fire. ¹⁷His 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.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Creed Page 191/192

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #344 – On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

The Sermon Being Made Blameless for the Day of Christ

Philippians 1:2-11

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), just want to follow along? Visit Pastor Bogs’ blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Have you ever wondered _____.

Paul Gives Thanks and Why

Paul gives thanks because _____.

Paul gives thanks because _____.

And Paul gives thanks because _____.

Paul’s Love for God’s People

Paul is thankful and loves God’s people because _____.

Paul is thankful and loves God’s people because _____.

Paul’s love, then, is _____.

Finally, Paul offers _____.

Paul’s Prayer

Paul’s prayer is that _____.

Paul prays that _____.

And Paul prays _____.

What Does This Mean?

Paul’s letter is not _____.

My prayer is that we hear _____.

I thank you _____.

And finally, I pray _____.

Central thought in one sentence _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Offertory Page 192

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 193

Our First Fruits and Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God’s love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

✠ ✠ ✠ **Service of the Sacrament** ✠ ✠ ✠

Preface Page 194

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 Page 195

Lord’s Prayer Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini Page 197

Agnus Dei & Distribution Page 198/199

Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible. If you have any questions, please speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #334 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

#788 - Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness

#353 - Jesus Came, The Heav’ns Adorning

#350 - Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus Page 201

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #347 - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People