

*“...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.’”*

*Luke 3:4*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday of Advent – December 9, 2018**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise if you are able when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Second Sunday of Advent – December 9, 2018**

*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."*

**PRELUDE:** *Advent Wreath No. 1* – Paul Hamill

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2** – 8:00 am – John & Ruth Ann Tully;  
10:30 am – Niklewicz Family

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's sway  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

*Light the first and second candle during the singing of the hymn.*

**ADVENT SONG #240:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, stanzas 1&2*

## **\*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 SONG #264: Prepare the Royal Highway**

**\*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.**

**\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God,  
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
 let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.  
 A - men, a - men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

*The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<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?

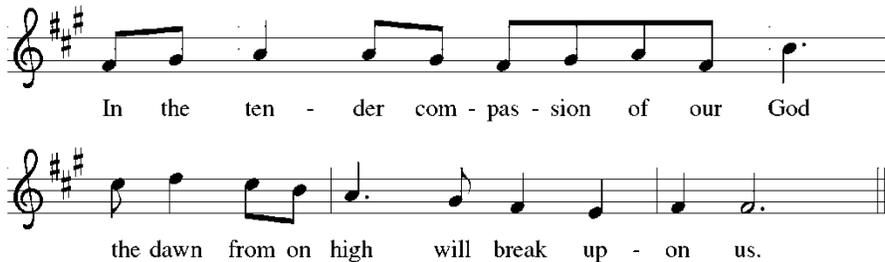
For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

<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. R**

<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. R**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare 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 shad- | ow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R**

## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

## GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

\* HYMN OF THE DAY #255: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

#### \*CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protect the creation, life-giving God. Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to care for wilderness areas and urban ecosystems. Move us to care for your creation in all its forms and richness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful, especially Bob, Karen, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen; those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child's coming among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN #253: He Came Down**

*Please stand for the final verse*

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
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 the 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh.  
 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
 we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
 full of grace and truth.  
 We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
 We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
 Come among us.  
 Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

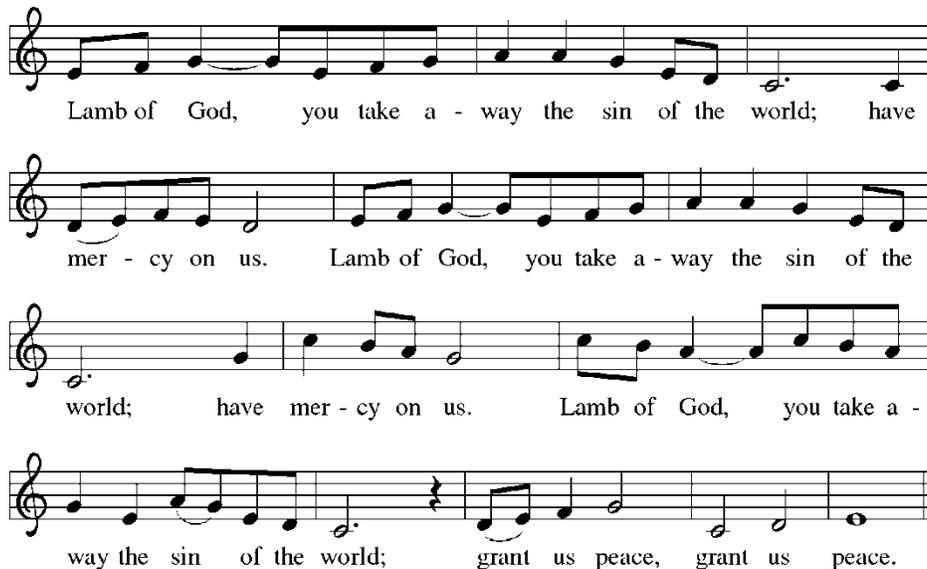
Hunger no more. Thirst no more.  
Come to the banquet of life

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.*

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\* COMMUNION SONG #266: *All Earth is Hopeful***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day  
when the hungry will be fed with good things.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds  
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends in mission to the world.*

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #250: *Blessed Be the God of Israel***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Come Thou Almighty King* – Lani Smith**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Christine Dishong**  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher: Robert Dishong**

**Attendance Last Week: 56**  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,088.92**  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 151,357.23**  
**YTD Actual Expense: \$ 164,384.88**

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister: Denise Hager**  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:**

**Attendance Last Year: 76**  
**Last Week's General Giving: \$ 2,519.74**  
**Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 81,898.23\***  
**2018 YTD General Giving: \$ 133,387.83**  
**2018 YTD Designated Giving: \$ 100,231.44\***  
**2018 YTD Receipts: \$ 233,619.27**

**\*Includes initial gift from the Rinehart Trust**

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