

Malachi prophesies the ministry of John the Baptist, who heralds the one coming after him and preaches a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Ultimately, this forgiveness is the work and gift of this greater One coming after John – Jesus Christ, the Lord of hosts in human flesh. We welcome everyone to God’s house today!

There is a Cry Room available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

Prelude – Bell Choir

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn 345

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Adult Choir

Once He Came in Blessing

1. Once He came in blessing, All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the Cross to save us, Hope and freedom gave us.
2. Still He comes within us, Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us; Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors Ere He comes in terror.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

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

LSB 186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

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.



Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1–7b

¹Behold, 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶For 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your King is coming to you;

C **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

Epistle

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

LSB 190



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–20

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



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, 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, 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C **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.

Hymn 344

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon Text

Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

Sermon

Glad, Thrilling Repentance

I. To faith, the voice that urges us to new life in Christ is a glad sound. Even when it calls us “ _____ !”

II. To faith, the voice that urges us to new life in Christ is a glad sound. Surely as it commands us to “Bear fruits _____.”

III. To faith, the voice that urges us to new life in Christ is a glad sound. So that we gladly reply, “ _____?”

Hymn 354

Arise, O Christian People

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 162

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

C **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.**

**The Installation of Bible Class and Sunday School Teachers
Benedicamus**

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn 616**Baptismal Waters Cover Me****Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Children's Bulletins Starting on December 5, Children's Bulletins will be available to youth ages 2-8. These special bulletins will follow the lectionary and keep children engaged during the worship service. Ask the ushers for the children's bulletin.

LWML will be filling "Cheer Tins" for 18 of our home-bound members on Sunday, December 12. If you wish to contribute any items, they should be individually wrapped, and placed in the kitchen Sunday. Thank you!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner. We served around 94 people. Also, a thank you to Thrivent and those who contributed with the funds needed for the dinner.

Search for Teachers

Thank you to those who have helped substitute teach this year! We are certainly blessed! **We are still in need of more substitute teachers.** If you are interested in subbing, please let Mr. Wildauer or Jennifer Harman know. **Also, we still are looking for a part-time 1st Grade teacher.** Potential candidates may email mwildauer@stpaulsbremen.org.

SGO

The year is rapidly coming to an end! If you would like to receive a 50% tax credit for 2021, please send in your SGO donations by the end of December. Information is in the tract rack or available from the school office. Thank you for donating and assisting our school families with their tuition!

BUDGET

Operating budget fund balance as of November 28, 2021 :
\$116,800

This amount represents over 8 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MINUTES – Copies of the minutes from the November 22 regular Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. These minutes include the regular board reports along with information about our 2022 congregational budget. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at keneichinger@gmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD is accepting donations for **poinsettias** to adorn the chancel during the Christmas season. Place in offering plate, marked "Flowers" or give to any altar attendant. Thank you.

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported our Youth planning to attend the 2022 National Youth Gathering, whether it is through the Car Wash (August), Rent-a-Youth (November), Family Christmas Pictures (November), or in other ways. We greatly appreciate it.



TODAY: Scrip Day..... December 5, 2021
 Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service.....9:30 am
 Men’s Group in the Gym.....3:00 pm
 Bell Choir Practice..... 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice..... 6:00 pm

TUES:

Prayer Meeting..... 7:00 pm

WEDS:

Day School Chapel..... 11:00 am
 Advent Meal..... 6:00 pm
 Advent Service..... 7:00 pm

THURS:

Preschool Chapel..... 9:30 am
 Basketball Trinity Elkhart..... 4:30/ 5:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY:..... December 12, 2021

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am
 Bell Choir Practice..... 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice..... 6:00 pm

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY DATES FOR DECEMBER : December 15th
 and December 29th.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US

One of the changes brought about due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak was using an “offering box” in the narthex of the church in front of the water fountains instead of passing an offering plate during the worship service. Please remember to give back to the Lord from the many blessings He gives us by placing your offering in the offering box or “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Youth in Grades 4 through 8 are encouraged to participate in this year's Christmas Eve Service. Practices begin today and will be on the following Sundays after the church service (we will start at 10:45 or 11:15 depending on the Sunday) and last approximately an hour:

December 5
 December 12

December 19

We also may hold an additional practice before the Service itself on December 24th. If you have any questions, please speak with Andy Wildauer.

Sunday School Classes for the Winter Quarter December 4- February 20, 2022

Pre-K -Grade 1 Nazareth Room

This class will be using material from the Faith Weavers Curriculum. Wendy Coxe will be teaching

Grade 2-5 Grade 4 & 5 grade Classroom

This class will be using material from Christ Light Curriculum. Jeannette Rettinger will be teaching

Grades 6-8 6-8 Grades Classroom

Our curriculum for this class will be the Study of 1st and 2nd Peter and taught by Barb Middaugh

High School Principals Office

Topic to be determined.

Adult Class I Bethany Room

“What Does God Expect of His People” will be a Bible study led by Pastor Rohde. It is a most treasured gift that we are forgiven of all our sins and given the gift of eternal life in heaven through the death and resurrection of Christ. But now what? As we are saved through faith in Christ, what is it that God expects of us? Through this Bible study we will search out God’s will for our lives.

Adult Class II Jerusalem Room

Dave Burcham will continue with the Study of Hebrews.

The Board of Christian Education Thanks all of the teachers that have given of themselves to teach this last quarter.

Servants for Today’s Worship

Pastor: Rev. Neil Wonnacott

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Bruce Augustine & Wayne Spicher

Acolyte: Molly Harman

Greeter: Larry & Tammy Britt and Heaven Hicks

Elder: Terry Miller