

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT + 08 DECEMBER 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

Communion Policy

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

To Those Intending To Commune This Morning:

We respectfully request that those visiting this morning would speak to Pastor Killian before coming to the altar for Holy Communion. While we desire that all who believe would join us in this feast of forgiveness, we are mindful of what God has spoken to us in His word regarding receiving this precious meal:

"Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

In light of this scripture and others, we take admittance to the Lord's Supper most seriously. **It is God's desire that you approach His table with a prepared heart and mind, and our desire that you join us. Please speak to Pastor Killian that we may maintain good order and a God pleasing approach to His most precious gift of mercy! Thank you.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.
 Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 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;*

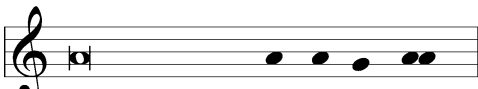
Israel would not sub- | mit to me.

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:*\br/>
 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight."

Kyrie

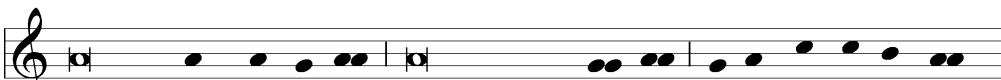
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



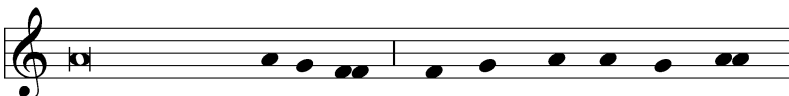
A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



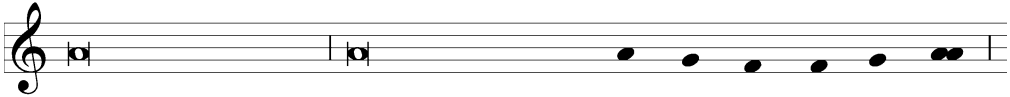
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



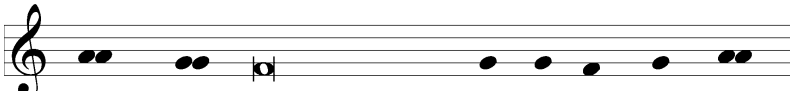
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



G A - men.

This Is the Feast is omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

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.

Robbing God

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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 66:1–12

How Awesome Are Your Deeds

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

²**sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!**

³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

⁴**All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name.”**

⁵Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

**⁶He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.**

There did we rejoice in him,
⁷who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

**⁸Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,**

⁹who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

**¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

¹¹You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

**¹²you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

Epistle

Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

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 and Verse

LSB 173



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

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



C Glo - ry to You, 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.”¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”¹⁴ Soldiers 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,¹⁶ John 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.¹⁷ His 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.¹⁹ But 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,²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

- P** O Lord, our God, You declared Israel to be Your people and brought them out of Egypt. You desired their salvation even when they would not listen to Your voice. Since You have called and gathered us also to be Your people, open our hearts to listen and gladly submit to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord, send forth pastors and missionaries to declare Your saving Word to the nations. Preserve them from temptation, protect them in suffering and equip them with every good gift to make known the Christ who still comes to save. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, as You call and gather us into Your family, so bless the households of this congregation. Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children. Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, and fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hosts, St. John the Baptist counseled penitent soldiers to go about their military duties according to Your Word. Remember those who serve in the armed forces. Protect them from harm, give them wisdom and courage, and grant that they fulfill their duties honorably. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Merciful Lord, Your forerunner prepared the way for the One who is mightier than all: Your Son, Jesus Christ. For His sake, we entrust to You those in need of healing, comfort and rescue, *especially Alice, Allison, Betty, Bev, Brittany, Diane, Esperanza, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, Ron, and Timothy.* Have mercy upon them, deliver them according to Your will and strengthen them in faith, that they might be assured of Your faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Gracious Lord, You sent St. John the Baptist to prepare all flesh to see the salvation of God. Prepare also the hearts of all who kneel at Your altar today to receive worthily Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Holy God, You sent Your Son to purify us, that we might be righteous and holy before You. Deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us and stains our works. Cleanse our hearts by Your grace, so that we may delight in Your promises and our works would be pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
- C** Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface


LSB 177




P The Lord be with you.




G And al-so with you.




P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

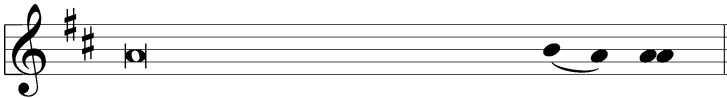
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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.

Sit

Please refer to the Communion Policy on page 2 before approaching the altar.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

- 1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
- 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
- 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
- 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
- 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,

From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -

es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C A - men.



Hymn to Depart

335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Refrain
Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.

Tune: Der Bussfertige Sünder, 1679, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Michael D. Costello (b. 1979)

Acknowledgments

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A Note From The Organist:

John Eggert graduated from Concordia University, Seward, and Northwestern University. He was a professor at Concordia Chicago for many years and is widely published. His setting of “O Lord How Shall I Meet You” contrasts a triplet obbligato with the hymn melody.

Michael D. Costello is Cantor at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Illinois. He has also published a considerable amount of choral and organ music. He has here given us an energetic fugue, with the hymn melody played on the pedal.

✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 32**
Midweek Attendance: 15

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** December 8th Maurine
December 15th Gayle
Cleanup for December: Gayle and Perla

+ Ushers for December: Dick Huhn and Olaf Teitell

+ **Church Council Meeting after service today. We will also be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas today!**

+ **Christmas Toy Drive!** Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Christmas Toy Drive!

+ **Congregation Voter's Meeting on Sunday, December 15th.**

+ **Poinsettias are available to dedicate for \$10. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia to help decorate the altar for Christmas, turn your order forms in by Sunday, Dec. 15th.**

December Birthdays!

Brittany Cotton 12th

Olaf Teitell 14th

Johnathan Thomas 23rd

We welcome you to join us for our Midweek Advent Services

The Advent theme for 2024 is *"The Prophets Testify: The Promise of Christmas"*.

Second Midweek in Advent – December 13th @7pm

Third Midweek in Advent – December 20th @ 7pm

Advent Suppers will be served before service at 6pm in the assembly room. Speak with Jill if you are interested in helping!

Lectionary Summary for the Second Sunday in Advent

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “see *the salvation of God*” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “*will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

Stewardship Bulletin Blurp

Luke 3:4 – “As 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.’” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.

Lutheran’s For Life Thoughts

The people of Christ do not sit still or stay silent. We shout, sing, praise, and bless (Psalm 66:1-2, 8). We get to testify after the fashion of the Baptist and loud like the Lord who has opened our lips. May we raise our Gospel-motivated voice For Life to encourage and advocate for those vulnerable to the deception of using death as a solution.

“If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’ Alleluia.” *Richard Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Memory Verse Challenge

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians. 4:6–7

A Snippet From 1517

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11 (Advent 2: Series C)

The joy and thanksgiving for God's work in and through the Philippians makes this text an opportunity to express your pride and love for your congregation.

When Paul and Silas (and Timothy and Luke) first preach the Gospel to Lydia and her friends in the Roman colony of Philippi, two things are abundantly clear: (1) God is absolutely in control, and (2) these people are completely engaged in what God is doing. Paul does not get credit for deciding to take the Good News to Europe. The Holy Spirit literally kicks him out of the Middle East and clearly guides him to Macedonia. Paul does not get credit for having a business plan that works when they get to Philippi. In fact, he cannot even follow his regular pattern of starting at the local synagogue on the Sabbath because the Roman city of Philippi does not have a synagogue. So, Paul and company end up at a women's Saturday morning riverside bible study and prayer meeting. And although Lydia, a Gentile, was a God-fearer, she does not get any credit for her faith: "The Holy Spirit opened Lydia's heart to pay attention to Paul's message" (see [Acts 16](#) for the details). When it comes to the founding of the Philippian church, God is absolutely in control.

At the same time, these people are actively engaged in the Gospel business. In [Acts 16](#) alone, Paul and Silas will be stripped, beaten, and thrown in prison because of their Gospel message. Once the Spirit opens her heart, Lydia jumps in with both feet. Her entire household is baptized, and she insists her house be the home base of Gospel operations in the region. As a result, this is where the believers meet when Paul and Silas get out of prison. God is absolutely in control and these people are actively engaged in the grace work God is doing.

The origin of the Philippian church sheds light on the opening of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul is following a fairly standard opening gambit, with a salutation and a thanksgiving which spills over into prayer. But embedded in this standard formula we can see a dual theme that has been lived-out in Philippi from the very beginning: (1) God is in control, and (2) you are actively engaged.

Paul's overwhelming sense of joy and thanksgiving flows from what he calls the Philippian "partnership in the Gospel" (verse 5). From the context of the letter as a whole, we know this partnership includes both the activity and the financial support that goes into the business of spreading the Good News. From the "very beginning" of their engagement with the grace of God in Jesus Christ, the Philippians have been actively involved in supporting and participating in the expansion of the Kingdom.

In the next breath, Paul reminds his dear friends that even their partnership from the beginning had its origin in God's work, not theirs: "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" (verse 6). Both the

origin and the completion of the excellent work of salvation belongs to the Holy Spirit who is within us. From first to last, God is in control.

And, firm first to last, we are actively engaged! Paul goes on to say these Philippian believers are business partners with Paul in an entrepreneurial startup he refers to here as “grace.” Paul can describe his own work and status as an apostle sent by Jesus with the word “grace.” In context, this is probably what he has in mind here. The Philippians have shown, in heart, mind, actions, and finances, they are co-partners in the business of grace.

(1) God is in control, and (2) we are actively engaged in God’s work of saving the world. That dual reality leads to all kinds of emotional responses in these few, short verses: Thankfulness, joy, yearning, affection, partnership, longing, and love.

It also leads to a kind of “double evidence,” where *our faith* is tested and proves reliable, while at the same time *God’s promises* are tested and prove reliable. In verse 7, the grace partnership leads to the defense and the testing-with-approval of the Gospel itself (the word here has to do with something you know is sturdy because you have walked on it. In other words, the proof is in the pudding). In verse 10, it is the Philippian believers who are testing and proving the excellent things (this “testing” word is used elsewhere in the metallurgic sense of heating gold or silver to remove impurities). Finally, the believers themselves will be tested and proved reliable at the return of Jesus. Paul is sure their faith is going to be held up in the sunlight and shown to be genuine, and their lives will not cause stumbling to any who walk the narrow way (verse 10). Even this confidence in the final outcome of their active engagement is followed up by a reminder that God is in control. These believers are simply bearing the fruit which comes naturally from being made right with God. The proof is in the pudding, but the pudding does not get any credit. God alone gets the glory (verse 11).

The joy and thanksgiving for God’s work in and through the Philippians makes this text an opportunity to express your pride and love for your congregation. You can point to specific things your people are doing which give evidence they are actively engaged in the saving work of the Gospel, business partners in grace.

At the same time, you have a chance to remind your people that, from beginning to end, their engagement in God’s work is already and solely the result of the Holy Spirit who is in them. This further allows you to invite them to trust more fully and rejoice even more confidently in the Spirit’s work as they lean into dependence on Jesus. What a blessing! God is in control, and we get to be actively engaged.

Justin Rossow, December 2024, 1517.org