

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2 & 5, 2021

The Lord is coming. Prepare the way before him.

Opening Hymn 16, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Order of Service..... Common Service, Page 15

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 24 (page 73)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God’s salvation.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse Page 18

GOSPEL LESSON

Nicene Creed Page 18-19

Hymn of the Day 27, “O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are”

SERMON..... “Prepare the Way for the Lord” Luke 3:1-6

Communion Liturgy Page 21

Communion Hymn 310, “I Come, O Savior, to Your Table”

Closing Liturgy Page 25

Closing Hymn 11 v. 1, “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7b

Malachi calls the promised Messiah “the messenger of the covenant” who is coming. No one will be able to survive being in his holy presence unless he is prepared. The Lord promises to send a messenger to prepare the way before him.

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies. But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire, like launderer’s bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. Judah and Jerusalem’s offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony

against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies. Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. Since 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 Armies.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11

God, who brought us to faith, will continue to bless us and keep us in the faith until the day when Christ Jesus comes again.

I thank my God every time I remember you. Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptizer encourages us to prepare the way for the coming Lord. We are truly prepared when we confess our sins and in faith look to him who comes with forgiveness and salvation.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Mike Pamperin/Dean Ebert; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart.

ADVENT WREATH: We continue lighting the candles on our Advent wreath today. The second candle we light is the Love or Bethlehem candle. This candle represents the love of God and its glow reminds us of the warmth that fills us with the love of Christ, now and forever, and thus reminds us of God's greatest gift of love, His Son. This candle also symbolizes that God chose the little town of Bethlehem to be the birthplace of our Savior.

CALL MEETING: A call meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday (TODAY), December 5**, immediately following the worship service. A call will be extended for a Gr. 1-2 teacher to replace Miss Sara Wentzel whose one-year assignment here will terminate at the end of the current school year. All voting members are urged to participate!

A FREE-WILL OFFERING will be taken **TODAY** to defray the costs of this year's Christmas gifts for the children. The children will be receiving Christmas ornaments.

THANK YOU to everyone who (will be decorating)/(decorated) the church for the Christmas season! We appreciate your time and efforts to help beautify our church!

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Boxes of Christmas cards are available for purchase from the "Greeting Card Corner" display in the church basement. Just pick out the boxes that you wish to purchase, complete a payment envelope, and give it to **Diane Koch**.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES: Christmas Eve services will be held on **Friday, December 24**, at **3:00 PM** -and- **5:00 PM**. The Christmas Day service will be held on **Saturday, December 25**, at **9:00 AM**. Our regular **9:00 AM** worship service will take place on **Sunday, December 26**. There will be a New Year's Eve communion worship service on **Friday, December 31**, at **7:00 PM**. There will be **NO** Thursday evening worship services on **Thursday, December 23**, -or- **Thursday, December 30**.

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Join the Seminary Chorus for their annual Christmas concert on **December 12, 2021**, at **3:00 PM** and **7:00 PM** in Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's auditorium. The **3:00 PM** (central) service will be streamed live and recorded at <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.

WLA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The WLA Sacred Christmas concerts are scheduled for **Monday, December 13**, at **7:00 PM** -and- **Tuesday, December 14**, at **1:00 PM**. These performances will be held in the **WLA gym**. They are identical performances. All are invited!

LUTHER PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The Luther Prep, Watertown, Christmas concerts will be held on **Sunday, December 12**, at **3:00 PM** -and- **Thursday, December 16**, at **10:00 AM**. Both concerts will be held in the **Luther Prep gym**. All are welcome!

SCRIP: If you are still looking for some Christmas gift ideas, check out our scrip (gift card) program. There are various ways to place your order and to obtain your cards. Please direct any questions you may have to **Holly Daley**, our scrip coordinator. There is just **ONE** ordering deadline date yet before Christmas—**Thursday, December 9**.

FLOWER CHART: The 2022 flower chart is now hanging in the school hallway. If you wish to provide flowers for the altar during the coming year, please sign up under the appropriate date(s).

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thanksgiving Day: 124; Sunday: 78

Offerings: Thanksgiving: \$6,453.00; Sunday: \$4,072.00
(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,661.00)

Special Funds: Undesignated Memorial (Debt Retirement): \$50.00; St. Matthew's Choir: \$100.00; Christian Aid & Relief: \$200.00; Debt Retirement: \$100.00

Memorials: In Memory of Lexi Held: \$20.00 (*Undesignated*); In Memory of Stan Multhauf: \$30.00 (*Undesignated*); In Memory of Art & Verona Justman: \$100.00 (*St. Matthew's Choir*)

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
CALL MEETING – Immediately following worship service
NO Adult Bible Class/Teen Bible Class/Sunday School

Tuesday: School Board Meeting 6:00 PM

Wednesday: Elders' Meeting..... 6:00 PM
Nominating Committee Meeting 6:30 PM
Church Council..... 7:00 PM

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM
Adult Choir..... 8:00 PM

LAST DAY TO ORDER SCRIP IN 2021!!

Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:30 AM