

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024



Our Mission:

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ”

Our Message:

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Pastor Peter Adelsen

765-860-5204

pastor@wspop.org

Church Office

608-786-3938

office@wspop.org

Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

Divine judgment is swift and decisive! In time, the Lord is sure to obliterate all opposition to what is good and right. In spite of this conflict, divine grace in Jesus fortifies the church in prayer, partnership, good works, affection, love, discernment, and excellence. God’s Word and Sacraments continuously equip the forgiven and forgiving church to be vigilant about the coming wrath, but also to be generous in bearing fruits of repentance as we await the salvation of God.

Order of Service:

Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.

Opening Hymn
Confession and Absolution

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(LSB p. 151)

Service of the Word

(LSB p.152-160)

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 admonish you!

O Israel, if you would but listen 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 submit to me.

Oh, that my people would listen 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 beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

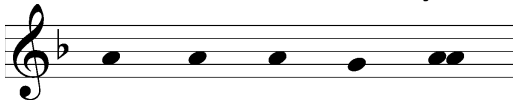
The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Kyrie

(LSB p.152)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C 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

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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: Philippians 1:2–11

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



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

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–14

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.” 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

349 Hark the Glad Sound

Sermon

"Who Can Stand When He Appears?" Malachi 3:1-7b

Offering

Special Music "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Offertory

(p. 159-160)

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That our long-suffering Lord, who once called Israel to repentance, would open our hearts to hear His Word, receive His gifts and gladly submit to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church and her ministry, that the Lord who sent John the Baptist to prepare His way would raise up pastors and missionaries and protect them as they make known His way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them, especially *Pastor, Melissa and Elsie Adelsen*. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.

P For those who serve in the military, [*especially _____*], that the Lord of hosts, who through John the Baptist counseled soldiers to conduct themselves according to His Word, would remember, protect and guide them to serve honorably, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those in need of healing, comfort and rescue, [*especially _____,*] that for the sake of Christ, who is mightier than all, God would deliver them according to His will and assure them of His faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who partake of the Sacrament of the Altar, that as John the Baptist prepared all flesh to see the Lord's salvation, so God would prepare our hearts to worthily receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those beset by temptation, that Christ who came to purify us would deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us, and cleanse our hearts and works to be righteous before Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

(p. 160-166)

Distribution Hymns

346 When All the World Was Cursed

359 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Post-Communion Canticle Nunc Dimittis

(LSB p. 165)

Post-Communion Collect

(LSB p. 166)

Benediction

(LSB p. 166)

Closing Hymn

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

Acknowledgments

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