

Tuesday Tidings of Grace



This Tuesday is December 3, 2024

This past Sunday was:

1st Sunday in Advent

[Sunday Worship on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Sermon on Website](#)

This past Sunday we began a new church year and the season of Advent. Pastor talked about how we are people of hope and we heard Jeremiah's prophetic words which reinforce this hope. Jeremiah prophesied the Righteous Branch of David would come (Jesus!) and He will be called "The Lord is our Righteousness." That is our hope!

Next Sunday, December 8 is:

2nd Sunday in Advent

This coming Sunday we hear from the prophet Malachi who foretells of a messenger who will come and prepare the way for the Messiah. Who would that messenger be: John the Baptist.

The readings are:

[Malachi 3:1-7b](#)

[Philippians 1:2-11](#)

[Luke 3:1-20](#)

The Hymn of the Day is:

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" - LSB #344

Grace Events This Week

Wed 12/4 (11a, 7p) - Advent Midweek Worship

Wed 12/4 (12p) - Advent Lunch

Thu 12/5 (12:30p) - Ladies Society

Fri 12/6 (6p) - Bunco

Sat 12/7 (9a) - Christmas Stockings

Sun 12/8 (12p) - Congregation Family Christmas Lunch

Sun 12/8 (2p) - Caroling to the Homebound and Lutheran Home

Tue 12/10 (11:30a) - Classics Lunch

Daily Bible Readings

<https://bit.ly/gracedailybible>

The 2nd Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

Psalm: Psalm 66:1-12

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

Malachi prophecies of the days of the Messiah, Jesus, whose way will be prepared by a great messenger. That promise of a messenger is fulfilled in John the Baptist. John prepared the people of God for the public ministry of Jesus to begin. Jesus is the Messenger of the Covenant. He is the refiner's fire. He is like the fuller's soap. He comes to purify us through the gift of His own blood, shed for us.

Epistle Reading: Philippians 1:2-11

Paul writes to an imperfect and incomplete people. He writes to fellow Christians whom he cares for deeply. He prays they they would continue to live in love "more and more". He writes Phil. 1:6 a well known verse "that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." We are incomplete in the sense that we continue to sin and we continue to side-step off the path of truth and righteousness. The Spirit, through our baptism, continues to work holiness within us. When Christ returns this work of sanctifying us will finally be completed. We will be quite the work of art in the Potter's Hands when that day finally comes.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-20

The beginning of Luke 3 is grounded in history the same way Luke 2 begins. Luke reminds of the rulers of the secular world to give us context for where the events of John the Baptist and Jesus will commence. Luke also writes to us of John as a fulfiller of the prophecy of Isaiah. It is a gift to us every time the Gospel writers confirm prophecies fulfilled from the Old Testament.

Luke also records for us the contentious interaction John has with the crowds. With stern words he calls them to repentance warning them of the judgment to come. The crowds ask the right question: "what then shall we do?" Many listened to John's call that day and so were made ready to receive Jesus.

Advent & the Communion of Saints

Included in the December 1, 2024 Worship Folder

In this Advent season we consider our sins and turn in repentance towards the mercy of our Savior Jesus. This is all part of our preparation and anticipation of Jesus' 2nd Coming. It is also practical to say, we spend a lot of time in this season thinking about Christmas and the holiday celebrations. On one hand, it is a great blessing to gather and celebrate and share gifts and big meals. So many opportunities for joy! On the other hand, this season can come across with so much difficulty for those dealing with the stresses of all the change and expectation. This season also brings to the forefront so much loss and grief when we struggle to handle the absence of loved ones.



What are we to do with this all? I would commend to you the Communion of Saints. We confess this weekly in the Apostles Creed. We confess that we believe as saints in Christ we are bound together, one to another, as the body of Christ. I believe this is an especially wonderful teaching for us to remember in a season like this when we are missing so many of the absent saints. It is wonderful because it reminds us of the singular thing on this earth, right here, right now, that can bring us closer to those saints we miss so dearly.

Every time you approach the Lord's Table for Holy Communion I want you to think of the Communion of Saints. I want you to see the earthly saints with your own two eyes and know that they are one with you as we partake of the body and blood of Christ. I would also have you envision that at the same time in heaven all of the beloved saints are also in Communion with us. You can almost picture the Communion rail that we kneel at extending through time and space into heaven, and the saints in white robes in heaven are also at that rail with us. We commune together as we receive the body and blood of Christ. That brings us as close as we'll ever be in what remains of this life. Don't forget it! Rejoice in it! It's wonderful.