

Tuesday Tidings of Grace



This Tuesday is December 10, 2024

This past Sunday was:

2nd Sunday in Advent

[Sunday Worship on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Sermon on Website](#)

This past Sunday we heard prophecy and promises from Malachi and St. John the Baptist. Malachi spoke of the coming of Jesus as being like a refiner's fire. Jesus comes to wash away our sins, sometimes with fire! John bid his hearers to "bear fruits in keeping with repentance" as he pointed people to Jesus' coming ministry.

Next Sunday, December 15 is:

3rd Sunday in Advent

This coming Sunday is the Sunday of Joy and Rejoicing in Advent. We hear Zephaniah's amazing words of promise as well as Paul's words of rejoicing to the Philippians. The coming of our Lord Jesus is great cause to rejoice!

The readings are:

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

[Philippians 4:4-7](#)

[Luke 7:18-28](#)

The Hymn of the Day is:

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" - LSB #345

Grace Events This Week

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

Wed 12/11 (12p) - Advent Lunch

Fri 12/3 (7p) - Ultreya

Daily Bible Readings

<https://bit.ly/gracedailybible>

The 3rd Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Psalm: Psalm 85

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The first two chapters of Zephaniah are filled with such immense sadness and hardship. And then comes the words of Zephaniah 3:14 and following. The good news comes to the people of God. The prophet speaks of the Day of the Lord, the coming of the Messiah. He fills the people of God with such joy with promises like these: "The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love." With similar hope of God's deliverance we look forward during this Advent season to the 2nd Coming of Jesus a day in which all of the good promises of our gracious God will come to fulfillment.

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul's joy for the Philippians comes bursting forth in this passage. He reminds us we have no need to be anxious about anything for the Lord is at hand. He has given us His name. He has invited us to call upon Him and be answered. He has given us His peace. As Paul points out in 4:7 this is the peace that surpasses all understanding. This is the peace that will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, meaning with this peace, we need never fear falling away from our Savior.

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:18-28

Our readings on John the Baptist (and Jesus!) during this Advent season continue with Luke 7. In this passage we hear of John the Baptist sending two of his own disciples to ask Jesus the big question: "Are you the one who is to come?" There has been debate over John's true intentions here. Is John doing this as a teaching tool so that his disciples can hear from Jesus what John already knows to be true. Or is John genuinely having moments of doubts and he sends his disciples to hear from Jesus first hand the answers so he can be strengthened in faith. It would appear the latter to most likely be true. Even the like of John, whom Jesus Himself praises, goes through the doubts and temptations of unbelief and Jesus acts as savior for John too.

Advent & the Communion of Saints

Included in the December 8, 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.