

The Old Testament Reading.Malachi 3:1–7b

“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. But 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. He 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. 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. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From 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 hosts.”

The Epistle Reading.Philippians 1:2–11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And 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. It 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. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so 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.

The Gospel Reading.Luke 3:1–20

In 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Every 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, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” He 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? Bear 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. Even 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.” And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” 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.” As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, 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. 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.” So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 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, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2003 N.E. Englewood Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64118
816.452.9113

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



Second Sunday in Advent
December 5, 2021

Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org

Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. A small brochure is available in the pew which describes the importance of the Biblical and historic practice known as "Closed Communion." If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

Notes on the service: The season of Advent emphasizes preparation for the coming of God, or of the Messiah King. Such preparation does not take place in a vacuum. Those who are to prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths smooth are those who are in the midst of struggle and difficulty and are burdened by personal sin. Thus, preparation assumes repentance and steadfast trust in the promises of God. Repentance assumes that the Lord who comes is the righteous King, who demands righteousness from His people. To make ready for such a King requires, then, acknowledgement that His justice demands our admission of fault. Similarly, if there is no trust that God will work as He has promised, there will be no making ready for His advent. If the King is not coming, why bother! The *Old Testament Reading* speaks of just such a context. The *Gospel* expresses that the "salvation of God" is about to be seen, and in His coming those unrepentant will be tossed away as though dead wood. Paul, in our *Epistle*, reminds his hearers that the Christian life is a preparation for the "day of Christ."

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: (The theme prayer of the day.)
P: 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.
C: Amen.

Psalm 81



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!

Organist. Ginny Valleau
Communion Elders. Steve Hoffman & Dave Senne
Ushers. David Johnson, Carl Pigors & Pat Schroeder

Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional

10:00 A.M.

Divine Service Setting Three LSB 184

Prelude - Handbell Choir - "Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates" - LSB #341
Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #346

Confession and Absolution LSB 184

Service of the Word LSB 186

Introit - Psalm 81—(printed at left)

Gloria Patri - LSB 186

Kyrie - LSB 186 (*Gloria omitted during Advent*)

Collect of the Day—LSB 189

The Lessons: (printed on back)

The Nicene Creed - LSB 191

Hymn of the Day - LSB #344

Sermon - Rev. Perry Copus

Offertory & Offering - LSB 192-193

Prayer of the Church - LSB 193

Service of the Sacrament LSB 194

Preface & Sanctus - LSB 194-195

Lord's Prayer - LSB 196 (Spoken)

The Words of Our Lord—LSB 197

Agnus Dei - LSB 198

Distribution - LSB 199

Hymns—LSB #608

LSB #354

LSB #625

Nunc Dimittis - LSB 199

Benedicamus & Benediction - LSB 201-202

Closing Hymn—LSB #343

Postlude