

CHOIR SONG LYRICS

"WE BRING HIS LIGHT"

"We bring light for all the world today,
Light that will shine in your hearts.
Take this light of peace to all mankind,
It is Christmas, we bring Christmas, God is with us,
We bring His light.

We bring light to worship Christ our King,
Light that gives joy to the world.
Unto us is born a Child of hope,
He will teach us, He will save us, He will love us,
We bring His light.

We bring light to show the way of truth,
Truth that will now set men free.
All the love of God has come to us in a Savior,
Christ our Savior, He is with us, We bring His light.
(Repeats)



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Sunday, December 9, 2018

St. Paul Lutheran Church
N926 Dale Avenue Dale, Wisconsin
Pastor William A. Finn





The Second Sunday In Advent

December 9, 2018

Welcome to Worship...

On this Second Sunday in Advent we hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the coming Christ by preaching a message of repentance (Gospel Lesson). John is the "voice of one calling in the wilderness," that Isaiah and Malachi wrote about (Old Testament Lesson), but it is Christ, and only Christ, who could carry out the hard service of suffering for our sin. Malachi sees him as a refiner's fire, a purifier of silver (v.3). The message today asks if anything in us needs purifying. Because he loves us, God tells us the truth about our impurities, and then he purifies us. To that person who says, "Not me! I'm pretty good," Malachi has a warning. "God is fire, and he's coming!" Believers will welcome and receive him. In Christ, they are even blessed in the refiner's fire, and they worship Him for it!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING SONG BY CHOIR: "We Bring His Light" (Lyrics printed on back page)

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we don't want your coming to catch us unexpected and unprepared. We know that since You commanded us, it is our duty to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, body and strength,

Congregation: But this we have not done.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUN (Dec 9) FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

Sunday School.....	8:00 am
WORSHIP (HC) (Adult Bible Study follows).....	9:00 am
MON (Dec 10) Pastor conducts Chapel at St Joe's.....	9:30 am
Choir.....	6:00 pm
TUES (Dec 11) Bethlehem Catechism Class.....	8:15 am
Church Council Meeting.....	6:30 pm
WED (Dec 12) Gr.7-8 Catechism Class.....	6:30 pm
THUR (Dec 13) Bethlehem Catechism Class.....	8:15 am
Teen Bible Study.....	7:00 pm
NEXT SUN (Dec 16) Sunday School	8:00 pm
WORSHIP (Adult Bible Study follows).....	9:00 am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

December 2 Plate Offerings:	\$1,061.00
Thrivent Choice dollars:	\$60.00
Weekly Electronic Offerings:	100.00
Total Offerings this past week =	\$1,221.00
OFFERINGS RECEIVED YTD (48 wks)	\$105,454.71
TOTAL OFFERINGS NEEDED YTD =	\$110,912.00
YTD DEFICIT =	(\$4,657.29);
AMOUNT NEEDED EACH WEEK:	\$2,294.00
TOTAL FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS =	\$5,253.00



(Visit stpauldale.com to give electronically or scan Q-R code)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS: See who's celebrating a birthday this week & wish them a "Happy Birthday!" **Dec 9**—Terry Byrum.

POINSETTIA ORDERS: Please consider purchasing a poinsettia (*just one or as many as you like*) to help beautify our church at Christmas! Forms are available on the counter today. Please use the forms to let us know you're purchasing a plant--we want to list all donations in the Christmas bulletins. Use the form to also indicate if you are donating your flower(s) in loving memory of a loved one or to the glory of the new-born King, Jesus. Fill out a form and give it to Pastor or Bonnie (*She's willing to shop for you if need be*). The day to have your poinsettia(s) here: Saturday, Dec. 22nd. Church door under bell tower open Sat by 8:00am. Thank you!

CORRECTION TO NEWSLETTER: Christmas Eve Worship is at 6pm

repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY: #19 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

THE MESSAGE TODAY: Based on Malachi 3:1-4

"Your God is a Fire"

- 1.) A word of warning. 2.) A word of hope.

After the Sermon sing, "Create In Me," page 20

THE OFFERING, PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT, p.21

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #310 "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"

A WORD FOR OUR GUESTS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION - The Lord Jesus gave special words of instruction concerning His Holy Supper. In keeping with His Word we practice "Close Communion" here at St. Paul. This means that if you are not a member of this congregation or another WELS or ELS congregation, you wait before communing with us until speaking with our pastor. He would first like to discuss with you who Jesus is, what he has done, and what he has taught. We pray with Jesus that one day, unity of faith based on the entire truth of God's Word, may be restored to His Church on earth that we may express that unity in this Sacrament.

After the Sacrament, the congregation joins to sing the **"SONG OF SIMEON,"** found on **page 24** in the front of the hymnal.

PRAYER AND BLESSING, pages 24-25

CLOSING HYMN: #23 "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

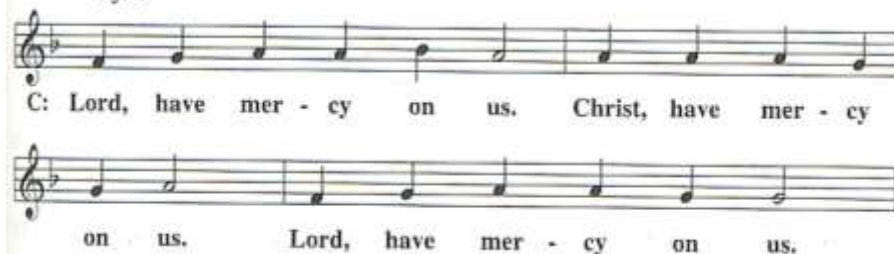
Pastor: We know, LORD, that You created us to find happiness in You alone, but our eyes often look elsewhere.

Congregation: We hear John the Baptist's call to repent, and to look to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Pastor: We look to Jesus who humbled Himself on the cross, and we cry out: "Lord, Have mercy upon us!"

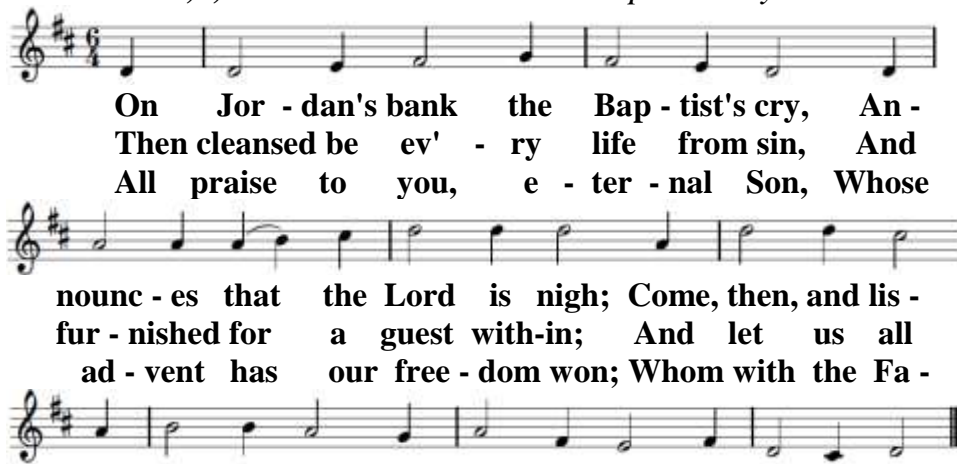
Sing: "LORD HAVE MERCY"

LORD, HAVE MERCY
Kyrie



Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given us His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SING: #16:1,2,5 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



**On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry, An -
Then cleansed be ev' - ry life from sin, And
All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose
nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis -
fur - nished for a guest with-in; And let us all
ad - vent has our free - dom won; Whom with the Fa -
ten, for He brings Good News a - bout the King of kings.
our hearts pre- pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

Congregation: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

P: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Pray together*) *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.*



THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: MICAH 3:1-4 (*The Lord promises a messenger to herald His coming*). “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 24, page 73 (*Sing in unison*)

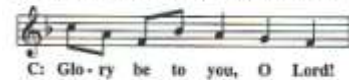
SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5 (*Faithful messengers prepare people with God's message for the day "when the Lord comes."*) This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God."

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6)



GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 3:1-6

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



LUKE 3:1-6 (*John the Baptist preaches the need for repentance and forgiveness.*) “In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. 5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. 6 And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’” 7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with