

LESSON: MALACHI 3.1-6

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. 4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. 5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. 6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 5 Therefore

judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

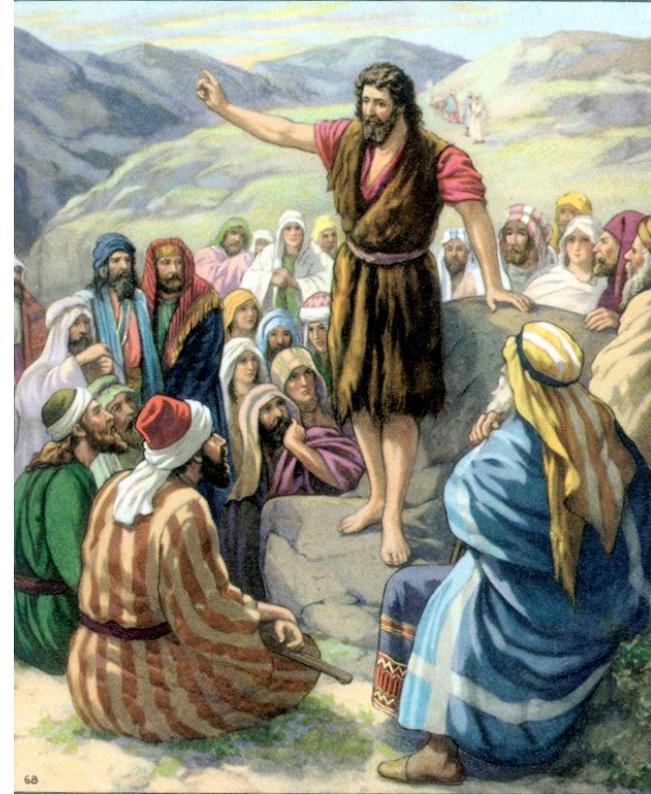
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-10

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. 7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.



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Our Lord's Forerunner
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Isaiah 40:3

December 13, 2020

**3rd Sunday
in Advent**

**THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE
WITHOUT COMMUNION
PP. 5-14**

<i>Prelude</i>	
HYMN	# 63
Confession through Creed	pp. 5-12
Introit & Collect	pp. 54, 55
Lessons	(back page)
Gradual	p. 55
Apostles' Creed	p. 12
HYMN of the Week	# 66
Sermon	
Offertory	p. 12
General Prayer	
The Lord's Prayer & Collect	p. 14
The Benediction	p. 14
Closing Doxology	# 644
<i>Postlude</i>	

Today's Usher: *Rich Pfeifer*

Today's ALTAR FLOWERS - are given to the glory of God by Fay Thomas.

THIS WEEK

- Today, 9:15am, Bible class
- Today, after church, Christmas decorating

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANGELS' CANDLE is a reminder of the ministration of the holy angels in the events leading up to the birth of our Lord.

COMING UP:

Christmas Eve Vespers
with Candlelight - 7:30pm
Christmas morning Holy
Communion - 10:30am

A 3 ADVENT PRAYER
by *Veit Dietrich*

Lord God, heavenly Father, who didst suffer Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become man, and to come into the world, that He might destroy the works of the devil, deliver us poor offenders from sin and death, and give us everlasting life: We beseech Thee so to rule and govern our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may seek no other refuge than His word, and thus avoid all offense to which, by nature, we are inclined, in order that we may always be found among the faithful followers of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him obtain eternal salvation, through the same, Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

NOTES & QUOTES

In the first place, our faith is strengthened and increased when Christ is held forth to us in his own natural works, namely, that he associates only with the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers, the dead and the poor; that is, in pure love and kindness toward all who are in need and in misery, so that finally Christ is nothing else than consolation and a refuge for all the distressed and troubled in conscience. Here is necessary faith that trusts in the Gospel and relies upon it, never doubting that Christ is just as he is presented to us in this Gospel, and does not think of him otherwise, nor let any one persuade us to believe otherwise. Then surely we learn Christ as we believe and as this Gospel speaks of him. For as you believe, so you will have it. And blessed is he, who finds here no occasion of stumbling in Christ.

Sermons of Martin Luther - The Church Postils, Vol. 1. Sermon for Third Sunday in Advent, pp. 109f.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Psalms - 109-115
- OT - Ezekiel 47-48; Daniel 1-5
- NT - Philippians 4; Colossians 1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1-2