

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6134 US 23 North, Rogers City, MI 49779

(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Pastor Jeffery J. Luplow

Organist: Mrs. Diane Smuda

Advent 2

December 5, 2021

As informed last Sunday, the word Advent means, “He comes.” The Advent Season focuses on the two comings of our Savior: the Savior’s first coming to earth in His Bethlehem birth; the second when He returns on Judgment Day. With both of our Savior’s advents in mind, we ask with the hymn writer, “O Lord, how shall we meet You, how welcome You aright?” (CW 18 or 19 stanza 1) The answer is by sincere repentance of sins from the heart and life and by faith in our Savior’s redeeming work.

Our gracious God sends faithful messengers to herald this message, to preach the law with its earnest call to repent and to proclaim the gospel with its full assurance that through faith in Jesus we have the benefit of His forgiveness.

Christians naturally want to share God’s word. As we witness in the ministry of John the Baptizer, God’s faithful people “message” His Word, as Paul described, as “*Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us*” (2 Corinthians 5:20). The Lord of His Church promises to carry on this ministry of the word through His faithful people. May the Holy Spirit through the Word motivate our hearts and move our lips to faithfully proclaim: “*God made him [Jesus], who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 110 (1-2), 106, 94 (1, 8), 88 (2)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4. Malachi calls the promised Messiah “*the messenger of the covenant*” who is coming. No one will be able to survive being in His holy presence unless he is prepared. The LORD promises to send a messenger to prepare the way before Him.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 24. We can stand in the LORD’s presence because He has made us clean and pure through the forgiveness of sins. Having been made clean and pure, we lift up our heads, eagerly waiting for the arrival of the King of glory. (CW pg.83).

Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11. Paul assures us that as we cling to God’s gospel promise, our God, who brought us to faith, will continue to bless us and keep us in the faith until the day when Christ Jesus comes again.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. And everyone will see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6. John the Baptizer encourages us to prepare the way for the coming Lord. We are truly prepared when we confess our sins and in faith look to Him who comes with forgiveness and salvation.

Sermon: Luke 3:1-6

Theme - “Heed The Voice Of God’s Advent Preacher”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Who is the “messenger” of whom Malachi prophesies in verse 1? (See Matthew 11:10)
- Old Testament: Why is it also scripturally correct to identify Jesus as the Messenger of God? (See the gospel of John chapter one, especially verses 1, 8 and 14)?
- Epistle: The book of Philippians is one of St. Paul’s prison epistles (wrote while in prison). Of what is Paul—though jailed—thankful?
- Epistle: Of what is Paul concerned regarding the Philippian Christians?
- Epistle: Of what is Paul confident concerning the Philippian believers?
- Gospel: How would we describe what the essence of John the Baptizer’s ministry was?

Announcements:

+ Sunday school 8-8:40 a.m.

+ Bible class 8-8:30 a.m. We will be studying the book of Psalms.

+ Confirmation class – Friday from 3-5 p.m.

+ Midweek Advent worship – Wednesday, December 15 at 6 p.m.

Holy Communion - We celebrate the Lord’s Supper because Jesus instructed us to do so, and God offers us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through it (Matthew 26:28). We believe the Bible’s teaching that receiving the Sacrament together is a way of expressing unity in our beliefs as one body (1 Corinthians 10:17). We therefore respectfully ask that guests who are not members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, refrain from communing here until becoming familiar with our beliefs and express agreement. We in no way imply that you are not a Christian or are not “good enough” for us. God’s Word teaches us to regard communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. In communion we publicly confess that we agree in all that we teach and confess on the basis of the Bible (Matthew 28:20, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 10:17). We pray that you understand and will respect this practice of Close Communion. We encourage you to seek more information about the confession that unites us and would love to meet with you if you have questions regarding Close Communion.

Malachi 3:1-4 – Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come,

says the LORD of Armies. But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. (EHV™)

Philippians 1:3-11 – I thank my God every time I remember you. Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will 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. (EHV™)

Luke 3:1-6 – In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was 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. He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. And everyone will see the salvation of God." (EHV™)

Advent 2 – Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath known as the Bethlehem Candle. This candle reminds us that the light of God's word revealed how the coming Savior would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

As we witness these candles lit and burning, we sing the first two stanzas of **Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel...**

1) Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. (Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!	2) Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain...)
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