

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But 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; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

or Baruch 5:1-9 [not printed]

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

continued

When John the baptizer arrives on the scene, it must mean Jesus is just around the next bend. Yet the path ahead that the prophet Isaiah describes has no bends or curves. It is a way made straight, one on which the rough spots have been smoothed out and the stumbling blocks removed. Our daily lives are rarely, if ever, made straight and smooth, though. The stressors we encounter at work, the difficulties of parenting or caring for family, the challenges that come as we get older fill our paths with twists and turns. Little is plain and simple, in life or in scripture. The point of the gospel is not that everything will be smooth for us if we just have faith. But neither are we hopelessly lost along the way. The good news is that God provides a way forward. Amid the obstacles are also openings.

Preparing our hearts to follow the way of Jesus involves work. Just as maintaining a roadway demands ongoing inspection and service, our spiritual lives and the lives of our faith communities require consistent, long-term attention, care, and commitment. During Advent, we in the church together recommit to the “roadwork” necessary for preparing the way. We open ourselves to receiving the gift of God's creative presence in the world.

Faith is the opening through which God begins this work. We do not baptize ourselves. We are not called to do the work alone. Rather, we are baptized into a community of faith, as members of Christ's body in the world. God's grace given to us in word and sacrament transforms and empowers us to work collectively, to care for one another and God's creation, to work for justice and peace. Life together won't always be smooth or straightforward. There will be obstacles. But by the grace of God, there are also open roads ahead.

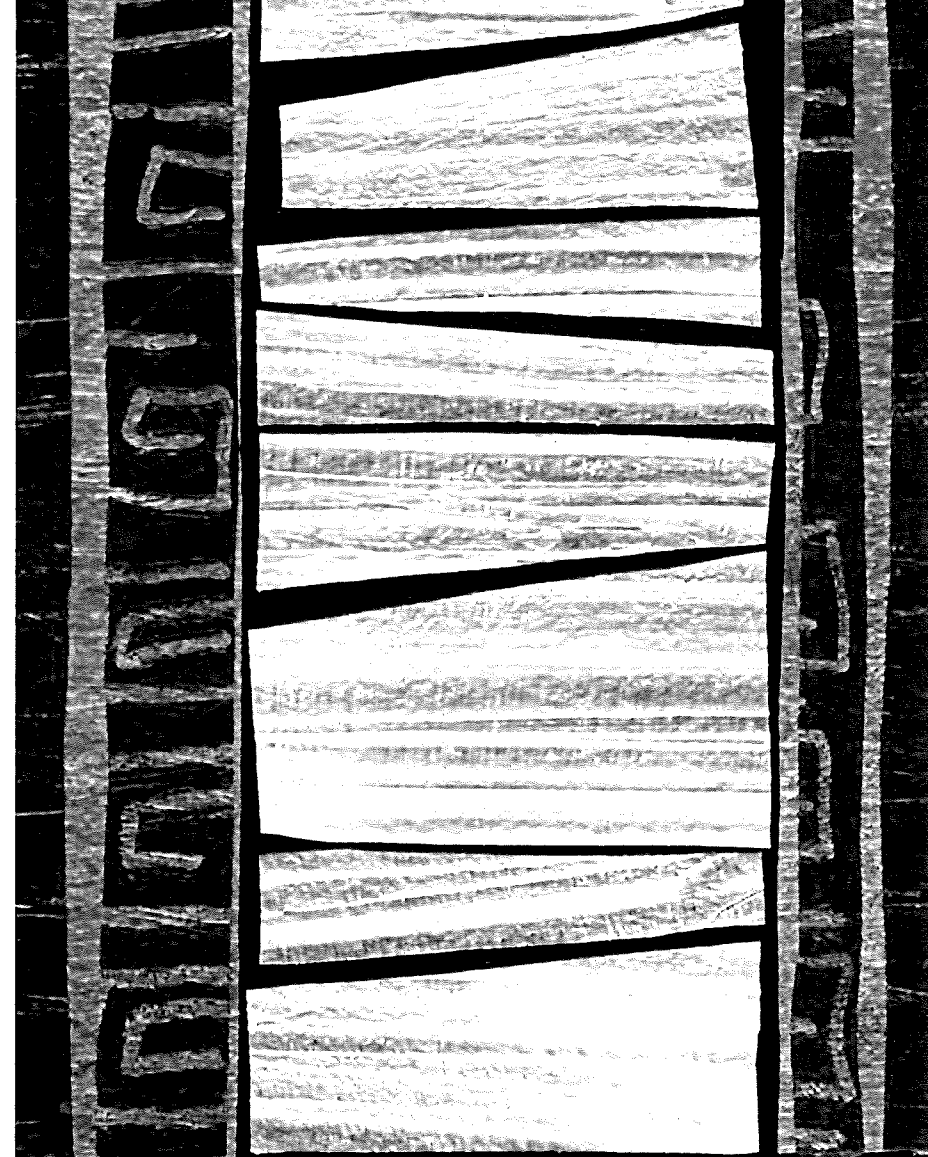
Gospel, continued

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

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*Prepare the way
of the Lord*

LUKE 3:4



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7800 West McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: Rev. Chris Buresh

The Associate Pastor: Rev. Andrew Bell

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry: Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch



THE 9:00 AM SERVICE OF THE WORD

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: *"Partita on 'People Look East' Bertolozzi*

+THE HYMN: HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING!

No. 246

+ The Kyrie – page 213

+ The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

The Anthem: ***"Awaken and Prepare Us" Hayes***

The Sermon: ***"Grounded"***

+THE HYMN: ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTISTS'S CRY

No. 249

+ The Nicene Creed – page 104

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Broughton*

+ "Salvation Belongs to Our God" – page 219

+ The Closing Prayers – page 220

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 221

+THE HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

No. 631

The Postlude: *"Prepare the Way" Mansfield*



Today's chancel flowers are given by Keith and Cindy Gansel in celebration of their 46th wedding anniversary. The flowers are also given by Bill and Linda Hubbard in loving memory of Joe Partoll and by John and Kathleen Vinson in loving memory of Kathleen's mother, Henrietta Klingenmaier.

Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website. Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.

THE 11:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: *"Partita on 'People Look East' Bertolozzi*

+THE HYMN: HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING!

No. 246

+ The Kyrie – page 203 (Sung by All)

+ The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Advent

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

The Anthem: ***"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Dennis***

The Sermon: ***"Grounded"***

+THE HYMN: ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTISTS'S CRY

No. 249

+ The Nicene Creed – page 104

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Broughton*

+ The Communion Liturgy – page 206

THE HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!

No. 239

COME TO THE TABLE

No. 481

+ The Prayer after Communion

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 209

+ THE HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

No. 631

The Postlude: *"Prepare the Way" Mansfield*



The Organist:

Beth Ridderhoff

The Adult Choir Dir:

Aaron Basch

The Carillon Choir Dir:

Michelle Podewell

The Lectors:

9:00 *Diane Sweeney*

11:00 *Kristi Traverso*

The Acolytes:

9:00 *Luke Wolcott*

11:00 *Leah & Sydney Anderson*

The FINAL Gift Card Order is due today! Orders placed today may be picked up next Sunday, Dec. 15. If you have yet to pick up an order, please see Pastor Bell.

Our intercessions include:

The hospitalized: Donna Dinkmeyer (Silver Cross), Elden Podewell (Christ)

**** WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE ****

Sign-up is available in the narthex for red poinsettias which will add to the beauty of our sanctuary for Christmas. The plants may be taken home after the Christmas Day Service. The cost is \$15, and all orders must be received by this Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Save the Date: Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm. ***Kids, we have ornaments*** for you to color and hangup, too! We appreciate all helping hands!

A blood drive is scheduled for next Sunday, December 15 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. You may sign up in the narthex this morning or on the bulletin board during the week. Blood supplies are dangerously low, so please consider donating this *gift of life*.

Next Sunday, the Stagg Madrigals will be here to share their voices with us and spread some Christmas cheer. They will be singing prior to the 11 am service, beginning about 10:50 am. Hope you are able to enjoy this annual event.

Please mark your calendars: The ***Sunday School Christmas Service*** is next Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm and the ***Christmas Concert*** is Friday, December 20 at 7:00 pm.

The 2025 giving envelopes are available in the "old" narthex today. If you do not see a set for you and would like one, please contact Donna in the office. Thank you!

Attention Youth! Luminary Assembly for the Christmas Eve services will be on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm. Bring your family and friends to help assemble these candles to light up our church for Christmas Eve.

Be sure to ***let us know if your child will be staying for the Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 14.*** Sign up at the Sunday School Welcome Table or email Mrs. Lori.

Parents of Sunday School Children: Please keep practicing the Christmas Service songs with your children at home! If you need a copy, let us know. Thank you!

See the back of the insert for this week's calendar and more important notes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Refining God, move through your church here, in Coronationville and around the world. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel in all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Guide us in practices that preserve and restore the earth for us and for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and those who serve our country and communities to broker peace and care for all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially*). Provide comfort and strength, and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Javion Ausec	Gerhard Haigis
Donna Dinkmeyer	Chriss Hassel
Lynn Evers	Jack Tinberg
Carol Ross	Nicole Baldwin
Bill Johnsen	Sue Buerger
Elden Podewell	Georgia Brennan
BJ Quigley	

Family and Friends of Members

Clara Gersch	Rose Shannon
Neil Whitham	Barbara Borg
Jim Lawler	Tom Seiberlich
Lee Sheridan	Mary Harris
Alma Fremarek	David Payne
Darwin Blake	Dannis Angeles
Howard Butville	Tracy Simmonds
Jean Madaus	Samantha Shank
Jasper Farr	Dale Koch
Dean Huidobro	Arlene Hajost
Al Innocenti	Joyce Latham
Bob Stevens	Anya Magnuson
Justin Emmick	Sylvia Rodriguez
Debbi Barry	Howard Gantz
Bill Poore	Greg Feil
Dave Wonder	James Mayera
Ray Fredrick	Mary Jones
Cathi Kay	Dan Zakowski
Katy Peterman	

The Prayer List has been recently edited. If there is someone you need added or removed, please contact the church office by 9 am Friday. Thank you!

DURING THE WEEK OF December 8

SUN		LSSI gift due back today
	10:10 am	Puppets/8 th Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Sunday School
	12:00 pm	Gingerbread House Decorating
		2 nd Gift Card Order Due
MON	4:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" – YouTube/FB
	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation
	8:00 pm	"Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am	"Cooking with Care"
	9:30 am	"Faith, Prayer & Joy" Group
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Discovering the Bible
WED	7:30 pm	Deacons' Meeting
	9:00 am	Poinsettia Orders Due
	2:00 pm	Peace Village Service
THU	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
	10:30 am	Finishing Touches
	6:00 pm	Joy Ringers
	6:30 pm	Decorating the Church
	7:00 pm	Carillon Choir
SAT	9:00 pm	Prayer Walk
	10:00 am	Cherub Choir
	10:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Service Rehearsal (All Grades, Jr. Choir & Confirmation)
	12:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Party
SUN	3:00 pm	Bowling
	8:30 am	Blood Drive
	10:10 am	8 th Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	10:50 am	Stagg Madrigal Singers
	11:00 am	Sunday School
4:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Service	
		Gift Card Pick Up

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up for flowers to celebrate an anniversary, wedding, birthday or to remember a loved one. The cost remains \$40. Thank you!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Welcome to worship as we continue to
prepare our hearts for the coming
Messiah.*

Look upon love



Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther

Perfect as is

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

—Corrie ten Boom