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Westminster, MA 01473

Our Savior Lutheran Church
December 7, 2022

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Advent Noon Responsive Prayer..... Behold, I Send My Messenger

Note: The liturgy is spoken. The hymns will be sung a Cappella.

THE OPENING VERSICLE

Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,
have mercy and hear us.

THE PSALMODY: PSALM 66:8-20 (ANTIPHON VV. 1-2)

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to You,
that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all You who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**Blessèd be God, because He has not rejected my prayer
or removed His steadfast love from me!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word: Malachi 2:1-16

Response after the reading:

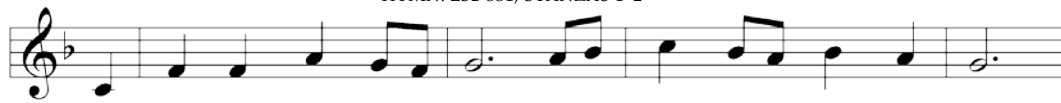
O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Malachi 2: The Call to Repentance

HYMN: LSB 331, STANZAS 1-2



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

The Consecration

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

The Holy Communion

All who receive Communion here must first be instructed.

Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment.

During the distribution, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ and for those in need or meditate on the liturgy, the psalm, and the hymns.

THE AFTERNOON LITANY

*Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us Your salvation.*

*Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;
and let Your saints shout for joy.*

*Lord, keep this nation under Your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.*

*Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You!*

*For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry come to You.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY AND AFTERNOON COLLECT

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray You so to guide and govern us by Your Word and Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget You but remember that we are ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BLESSING

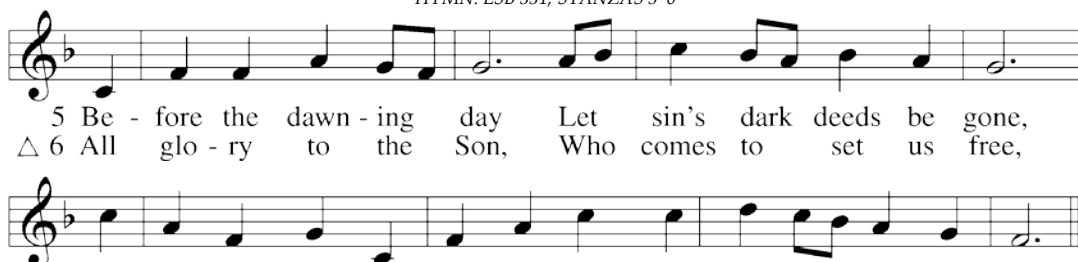
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

HYMN: LSB 331, STANZAS 5-6



5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text and tune: Public domain

Preacher & Celebrant: Rev. Peter Gregory

Wednesdays in Advent

November 30: Malachi 1 • December 7: Malachi 2:1-16

December 14: Malachi 2:17-3:15 • December 21: Malachi 3:16-4:6

*Midday Service at 12:00 noon and Vespers Services at 7:00 pm, both with Holy Communion
a light supper precedes the evening service*