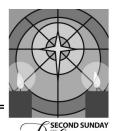
St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill December 5, 2021 Please tune to 87.9 FM



*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Light One Candle (v 1, 2)

ELW #240

*GATHERING HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW #239

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only 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.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-7

¹See, 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. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. ⁷Ever since the days of vour ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 66:1-12

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

⁴All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name." Selah

There we rejoiced in him,

⁷who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations — let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Selah

¹Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

²sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

⁶He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

⁸Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

¹²you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

SECOND READING Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go

*GOSPEL Luke 3:1-20 (Pew Bible NT pg. 52)

The Word of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor George Rahn

HYMN OF THE DAY On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (v 1, 2, 3, 5) **ELW #249**

*THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

*PEACE

OFFERING HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (twice) ELW #184

*OFFERTORY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow ELW #885

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS p 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may these precious gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in God's grace this day. **Amen**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW #547

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.

Monday, December 6th
6:00PM Executive Meeting

Thursday, December 9th 2:00PM Ladies Aid



Saturday, December 11th & Sunday, December 12th
6:00PM-8:00PM Bethlehem in Independence Live Nativity
Independence School House 9325 FM 390 E Brenham, TX



Next Sunday, December 12th Advent 3

7:45AM Worship Service & Baptism (Activity Center Reserved) 9:00AM Sunday School & Christmas in the Country



Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke Ella Ruemke Helen Gaskamp **Emery Schulze** Gilbert Spinn Linda King Cynthia Wilson Verna Mae Sefcik Tom Bentke Jerry Randermann Mary Ann Luce Connie Seward Justin Reuter **Dorothy Wiesepape** Charles "Dutch" Schulze Marjorie Hohlt Mary Longhofer A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp Clarence Moehlmann Peggy & Milton Bosse

John & Carol Haarmeyer

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Kelly Antkowiak, Charles Giese, Carolyn Lange, Doyle Wieghat, Payton Blake, Audrey Dismukes, Patti Horton, Carolyn Kessel, Gayle Himly, Connor Himly, Ruth Finke, Vernon Wagner

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Jim & Sandy Kite, John & Carol Haarmeyer, Lee & Kathy Nordt

Friends & Family:

Alyssa & Ezlyn Jones
Blake Bates
Carol Lieber
Christy Dallmeyer
Corrie Newland
Holly Haarmeyer Rodriquez
John Tuefel
Kathy Schrader
Missy Goldmith
Shannon Wellmann

Please notify the church office of any prayer request by simply writing a note on the back of your attendance card. Thank you!



Deadline for Poinsettia Orders is TODAY!!!



LADIES OF THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FUN AND FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL

Thursday, December 16, 2021 11 A.M.

Los Cabos Restaurant "Dutch treat"



Please sign up in the back of church by December 12th. We will have fun, games, prizes, laughter & Christmas blessings! We look forward to seeing you!

2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex!



Please note that if you did not pick up your envelopes in previous years they will not be out. We understand that many of you give online. Kindly send an email to prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com if you need help. Thank you!



The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex. Please sign up for your altar flowers for next year!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Email: prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org

Church Council President Jon Westerfeld (979) 277-2471