**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**First Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b**

3See, 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 your 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?”

**Psalm: Psalm 66:1-12**

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! 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.”**

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. 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

**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.

**Gospel: Luke 3:1-20**

3In 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. 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.’” 7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” 15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” 18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**Today: December 8th Wednesday: December 11th**

**Second Sunday of Advent** 7:00-Council Meeting

9:15-Adult SS7:00-Confirmation

9:15-Youth SS **December 15th**

9:30-Coffee Fellowship **Third Sunday of Advent**

10:30-Worship 9:15-Adult SS

& Advent Reading 9:15-Youth SS

4:00-Laurens Care Center svc 9:30-Coffee Fellowship

6:00-Bethany Prayer Group 10:30-Worship w/Communion

**Mon-Wed**: Dec 9-11 SS Christmas Program

Pastor @ STS Retreat @ 11:30-Potluck

Schuyler, NE 6:00-Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: December 9th**

7:00-Handbell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: December 10th**

8:30-Prayer Group

9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm/flood victims, those suffering any illness, Don DeHaan, Ed Schmidt, Dorothy Smith, Pastor Amy Little, Bill Belt, Janelle Mason, Warren Hawk, Linda Galbraith, Tim Burton, Desiree Welty, Roberta Baker, Pastor John Mayer, Elizabeth Dunbar, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Pastor James Puotyual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Family of Brian Thompson.  Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

**Lectors:** Pat Boughey

**Ushers:** December 8th-Rich & Marilyn Ehlers

December 15th -Julian Johnsen Family

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: $2817. 00**

Faith Promise $1294.00 Worship 34

Thank Offering $40.00 Adult SS 5 Youth SS

***Birthdays:****December 10 – Kane Akridge; 11 – Michael Kemp; 14 – Cenon Zarzoso*

***Anniversary:****December*

**\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.**

***Altar Flowers:***

*Text

Description automatically generatedAn asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (as able)*

**ORDER OF THE SERVICE**

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION**

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56

\*HYMN ***Comfort, Comfort Now My People LBW 29***

\*GREETING P.57

\*KYRIE P.57

\***Glory to God**… P.58

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY *(bulletin-in unison)*

**MEDITATION ON GOD’S WORD**

**Advent Reading *The Angels Speak***

**Lighting 2nd Advent Candle**

**FIRST READING:** **Malachi 3:1-7b**

**Psalm: Psalm 66:1-12** *(bulletin – responsively)*

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:2-11**

\*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-20**

\*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON **Pastor David Klappenbach**

HYMN ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus CH 244***

APOSTLES’ CREED P65

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD**

OFFERING / Processional **“Offertory Psalm”** P.75

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Leader: …Lord in your mercy

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

*\*THE LORD’S PRAYER* P.76

**OUR SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION \*HYMN ***Savior, Again to Your Dear Name LBW 262***

\*DISMISSAL

**December 8, 2024**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT**

**TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

***We are a***

***Christ-Centered***

***Mission-Driven***

***Traditionally-Grounded***

***Congregationally-Focused***

***Church.***