

About the Second Sunday in Advent
Theme: The Way of the LORD
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

Before the LORD comes to His temple He will send His messenger. (Malachi) He comes to purify and cleanse His people so that they may bring Him righteous sacrifices. We can abide the day of His coming only because He Himself clothes us in His righteousness by faith. So the apostle gives thanks that those who had been brought to faith by the preaching of the gospel will be kept in the faith until the day of Christ's return. (Philippians) Such God-given faith will keep them pure and blameless on that great and awesome day. John was the messenger sent to prepare the way for the coming of the LORD's Christ. (Luke) He came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The LORD's path is prepared by such repentance and forgiveness in human hearts: the crooked is made straight and the rough places smooth.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Malachi 3:1-7b What is the purpose of the messenger of the LORD? When did the LORD appear (clothed in infant flesh) in His temple? How did Christ purify the offerings of His people and those who bring them? How does He do this today? What does this mean?
- Monday** Philippians 1:2-11 Why was the apostle thanking God? Who were his partners in the gospel? Who are partners in the gospel here? What confidence may we therefore have regarding the future? What was the apostle's prayer? Where does spiritual discernment come from? What is the result of spiritual discernment? Where does righteousness come from? What fruits does it produce? Where therefore do those fruits come from? What does this mean?
- Tuesday** Luke 3:1-14 Where did John get his message? What was the purpose of the baptism he announced? What is the purpose of our baptism? How is a proper way prepared for the LORD's coming? How is this done? What does this mean?
- Wednesday** Psalm 66:1-12 Whom does the psalmist call upon to "shout for joy to God"? Is this idolatry? Why or why not? What are the reasons for such rejoicing? [Make a list.] What does this mean for us today?
- Thursday** Zephaniah 3:14-20 What is the cause of Zion's singing? What punishment has the LORD taken away? What enemy has He turned back? When was the day that the LORD God came to be with His people? How is He with us? What is it that can quiet the restless human heart? How is this done?
- Friday** Philippians 4:4-7 What is the cause of our rejoicing? How has the Lord drawn near to His people? How does He weekly draw near us? How can others detect that He is near by looking at us? How is this done? What is the antidote to anxiety? What will be the effect of the peace of God? How do we receive that Peace?

Saturday

Luke 7:18-28 How does this lesson fit into the season of Advent? What did John's messengers learn about Jesus? What does this mean? What did Jesus tell the crowds concerning John? What does this mean?