

Wednesday, December 23rd 2020

Advent Midweek Service #4

**If Participating in the
Service from Your Vehicle
Please Tune Your Car Radio to 93.1 FM**

P R E P A R E Y E



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Winchester, Texas 78945**

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NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:

Our service today will take place in the sanctuary. We ask that you only participate in the service in the sanctuary if you are free of any COVID-19 related symptoms and have not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19. All who participate in the sanctuary are asked to sanitize their hands upon entry, wear a mask for the entirety of the service, and leave at least six feet of lateral space in each pew between groups. Every other row has been marked off for increased distancing between groups.

For those who would prefer to continue to participate in the service from their vehicles, you are able to do so. Please park on the east side of the church building and you will be provided with a bulletin.

- By tuning your car radio to 93.1 FM, you will be able to hear the service taking place inside. Please participate fully in the congregational responses, singing, and prayers!
- In order to register your attendance with us today, please fill out the attendance sheet on the back cover of your bulletin. You will tear this page off and hand it in with the offering. An usher will come to collect the offering and attendance sheets from you during the final hymn.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prepare Ye

A Series of Special Services for Advent

Week 4: Proclaim

Order of Service

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

Psalm 145:6

Welcome to Worship

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Let us proclaim the name of the Lord and ascribe greatness to our God!

P He is the Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just.

C He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.

P John came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

C As it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet—all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB #343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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Confession and Absolution

- P** Moses writes in our first lesson, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just. He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.” Therefore, with contrite and broken hearts, we confess our sin.
- C Heavenly Father, we come to you because you are faithful and your ways are just.**
- P** But we are soiled by sin.
- C Dirty from misdeeds.**
- P** Grimy from guilt.
- C Lost in a cesspool of selfishness.**
- P** Though you are faithful.
- C We are faithless.**
- P** Though you are just and upright.
- C We can be unjust and dishonest. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**
- P** John the Baptist came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He pointed to the one who is mightier—Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus loves you. Jesus died for you. Jesus lives for you. And Jesus forgives your every sin. And so we say to the world—
- C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God!**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus whose birth, baptism, teaching, miracles, death and resurrection empower us to see your mighty salvation. With the open eyes of faith we

thank, praise, serve and obey you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

²May my teaching drop as the rain,
my speech distill as the dew,
like gentle rain upon the tender grass,
and like showers upon the herb.
³For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;
ascribe greatness to our God!
⁴“The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-16

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he 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 Isaiah the prophet,
“The voice of one crying 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 become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷He said therefore 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 in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to 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 shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB#344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nunc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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Sermon

Rev. Nate Hill

Prayers

P Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Divine Warrior who fights for us. Whether it's a mere skirmish or an all-out assault, the battle belongs to you, Lord. Fear and discouragement are not the order of the day; faith and hope are. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, often we feel like Gideon taking on the Midianite army; like David standing before Goliath; like Elijah facing 400 prophets of Baal; like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a fiery furnace; like Esther against the Persian government. It's not our competence but your presence that matters. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, when it seems like evil and terror will triumph, give us eyes to see your power and your might. When we're under attack by the seducer, accuser and condemner, let us see your scars, your resurrection triumph and your all-sufficient grace. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, when we have to confront darkness in broken people and broken situations, protect us and empower us through the gospel. When our divided hearts wage war inside us and we're tempted to look for another savior, come to us and fight, Jesus, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C For what was delivered to us was of first importance—

P That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

C That he was buried,

P That he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

C To the end that—all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Closing Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB#347

Those participating in the service from their vehicles will have an usher approach their vehicle during the closing hymn to collect the offering and attendance sheet.



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Offering

The offering will be collected today as you exit the church building. Please consider transitioning to making your regular tithe or offering online at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give



Please also fill out the attendance register on the back page of your bulletin, tear it off and place it into the offering basket.

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**SAINT MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION**

DATE December 23rd 2020

NAME(S) AND CONTACT INFORMATION*

NAME(S)	ADDRESS	MEMBER	VISITOR	DESIRES A CALL	COMMUNING TODAY?
PHONE	EMAIL				
NAME(S)	ADDRESS				
PHONE	EMAIL				
NAME(S)	ADDRESS				
PHONE	EMAIL				
NAME(S)	ADDRESS				
PHONE	EMAIL				

***NOTE: VISITORS, PLEASE PROVIDE ALL CONTACT INFORMATION; MEMBERS, UPDATED INFORMATION ONLY**