

THE 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

3 See, 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. ² But 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; ³ he 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. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God**

The Psalm will be read responsively – Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ **He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,**

⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ **that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of
all who hate us.**

⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ **the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us**

⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ **in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ **to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I 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. ⁷ It 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.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of God. **C: Thanks be God**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

ELW 151

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

Gospel Response – C: Glory to you, O Lord.

3 In 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as 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.

⁵ Every 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;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord – C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Linda Flora
LECTOR: John Bulger
USHERS:
GREETERS: John and Barbara Bulger
BELL RINGER: John Bulger
CRY ROOM: Located downstairs in the youth room. Also available are coloring books and crayons on the last pew in a green basket.

CALENDER

TODAY 10:00 Sunday School
10:30 Cookie Walk
MONDAY 6:00 Council Dinner and Meeting at Passavant Retirement Center



NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Shonna Ash friend of Sylvia Brackbill, Tom Brosenitsch brother of Tim Brosenitsch recovering from an accident, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch diagnosed with breast cancer, Jenny, Judy Hart, Adrienne Haegg.

[The complete prayer list is in the December newsletter.]

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST SUNDAY: 46 - \$1283.00

FOOD CUPBOARD – DECEMBER

We will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly.

THANK YOU

To Bobi-Jean Alexander for the wonderful Festival of Music she organized with the help of Pastor Brewer last Sunday evening. Also thank you to everyone who provided joyful music for the evening especially our own talented youth and choir members.



COOKIE WALK 2018 – TODAY – 10:30 TO 1:30

Delicious cookies for only \$10 (large box) or \$5 (small box).

FOOD CUPBOARD GIFT TAGS

Gifts are to be turned in today for the Butler County Food Cupboard. Please give gifts to Phyllis Metz.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for your family to volunteer in the lighting of the Advent wreath.

A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CHOIRS

Invites you to join them as they celebrate the season of giving. A schedule of performances is listed below:

Sunday, December 9 – 7:00 PM
Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue, Butler, PA 16001
Benefits: The Lighthouse Foundation

Friday, December 14 – 7:30 PM
Bakerstown United Methodist Church
5760 William Flynn Hwy., Gibsonia, PA 15044
Benefits: The Lighthouse Foundation

Saturday, December 15 – 3:00 PM
St. Peter's Reformed Church (Hosting for English Lutheran)
310 East Grandview Ave., Zelienople
Benefits: Abiding Ministries

Sunday, December 16 – 7:00 PM
St. Peter's Reformed Church
Benefits: A Circle of Friends Choirs

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLIDAY CONCERT

Zion Lutheran Church is sponsoring a holiday concert featuring the Ellwood City Civic Chorale. The concert will be held on today, December 9th, beginning at 3:00. Following the concert, there will be a social time with cookies, coffee and punch.

ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST

Sylvia Brackbill will be singing with the **One Voice for Christ** ensemble this Advent Season. One Voice Christian Vocal Ensemble was founded in September, 1991 by David F. Pressau, Minister of Music for Grace Anglican Church in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Through his work at the church and as a music and theatre educator, David had the opportunity to meet a number of Christian vocalists who were seeking new ways of using their talents to glorify the Lord. From those

beginnings, David was led to pursue the formation of a permanent multi-denominational ensemble tasked with spreading the word of God's love through a ministry of music. Thus, One Voice was created. Each performance is 1 hour and 15 minutes in length: Schedule of performances are:

Sunday – December 9 – 2:00 PM, Claysville United Presbyterian Church

Sunday – December 9 – 7:00 PM, Christ Church, Anglican – New Brighton

Sunday – December 16 – 2:00 PM, Grace Anglican Church – Mt.

Washington

Sunday – December 16 – 7:00 PM, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
Sewickley

For more information about One Voice for Christ go to their website at <http://onevoiceforchrist.com/about.html>

VISITORS

If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the welcome cards in the pew racks. Also, please feel free to take home a monthly newsletter. We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.