



**John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low"**

Peace Lutheran Church of Orofino ID

13946 1st Ave

8:00 am Worship Service; 7:30 am Bible Study

www.orofinolutheran.org

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarkston WA

1107 14th Street

11:00 am Service; 10:00 am Sunday School; 10:15 am Bible Class

www.ClarkstonLutheran.org

Members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2011

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 85 (front of the hymnal p. 140)

The Hymns: 85:1-3, 63, 85:13-15, 712:1

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, make us diligent in the use of Your Word, and enable us by the grace of Your Holy Spirit to walk before You in fervent faith and all holy obedience, that with constant watchfulness and prayer You will help us prepare our hearts for the second coming of Your Son, Who will take us to live with Him in His eternal Kingdom. In His saving name, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 85:1-3

The Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
(Hymnal, page 5 – Congregation Stands)*

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation. (sing) Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

Pastor Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Congr. (sing) *Who made heaven and earth*

Pastor I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Congr. (sing) *And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*

Pastor Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Congr. (sing) Amen. *(congregation is seated)*

THE INTROIT

*Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving.
This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own Word, often from the Psalms.*

P: Daughter of Zion:

C: Behold, your Salvation is coming.

P: The Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard:

C: And you shall have gladness of heart.

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel:

C: You who lead Joseph like a flock.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (Hymnal, page 6)

**CONGR. (sing) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

THE KYRIE

*Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.
(Hymnal page 7 - sing)*

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

THE GLORIA

A hymn glorifying and praising our God (Hymn 798:1 - sing)

**God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You sovereign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship, Father by Your Church adored:
All creation shows Your glory; Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne
Singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts and God alone!"**

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

PASTOR The Lord be with you.

CONGR. (sing) And with thy spirit.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.

CONGR. (sing) Amen.

THE BIBLE LESSONS

God speaks to us.

The Old Testament Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, 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 launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. 4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.

PASTOR Here ends the Old Testament Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined:

C: Our God shall come.

P: Gather My saints together before Me:

C: Those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The powers of heaven shall be shaken:

C: And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Hallelujah!

CONGR. (sing) Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PASTOR The New Testament Reading comes from Philippians chapter 1, beginning there in the 3rd verse.

CONGR. (sing) Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

New Testament Reading

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the

gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

PASTOR: This ends the New Testament Reading
CONGR: (sing) *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 12)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

St. John's Choir – *The Song of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in ev'ry generation. He has shown the strength of His arm; He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His children forever. Amen.

Hymn 63

THE SERMON

Luke 3:1-6 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the

book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Theme: "LISTEN TO A TRUE ADVENT PREACHER"

- I. He urges us to turn from our sins
- II. He invites us to receive God's salvation

THE OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

(Hymnal, pages 12-13) (sing)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 127:3:

***As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!***

PRAYERS - (Pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (All)

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.

Hymn 85:13-16

Congregation stands for:

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

PASTOR:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

CONGR. (sing) Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Closing Hymn 712:1

*** *Silent Prayer* ***

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James

PEACE REMINDERS: Today: Christmas decorating after church. Two weeks from today on Sunday the 18th is our Christmas Eve celebration. No morning service that day, instead we'll have an afternoon service at 1:00 pm followed by a Christmas potluck dinner. Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th - regular 8:00 am service time. No Bible Class.

ST. JOHN'S REMINDERS:

Today!! Potluck, church decorating, then caroling. Please consider joining us carolers for an afternoon of singing our member's favorite carols.

Ladies: . Boxes for the food items will be placed on the back table in the fellowship hall to be assembled on Dec. 4th and distributed with the carolers. Shut ins: Mary Ann Callahan, Velma Diehl, Julia Palmer, Kirby Seiblest, Janice and Lee Wade and Mr. Shearl Lomax.

Midweek Advent Services this Wednesday December 7th 7 PM.

Refreshments served after the service.

Christmas Eve Children's Goodie Bags A box is out in the fellowship hall for items for Christmas bags given to the children on Christmas Eve. Candy, goodies, fruit, etc., are welcome! This box will be out for two more weeks.

Poinsettias for the altar You are welcome to bring poinsettias to decorate the front of church, or you may contribute to the Ladies Aid toward their purchase.

Choir We invite you to join us in singing for special occasions. For the next two Wednesdays we will meet at 6:15 before Advent Services.

"I will sing and make music to the LORD!" Psalm 27:6

caroling will begin at 1:30 pm We will visit four of our shut-ins

NEXT SUNDAY: WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON All women from both congregations are invited to this celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus on Sunday December 11 at 12:00 noon at St. John's in Clarkston. Please

bring a dozen cookies and a \$5 gift to exchange (optional). Call if you need transportation. (Sue Martin – 758-2374). Invite a friend!

NEXT SUNDAY: MEN'S CHILI FEED While the women are having their luncheon, the men of both congregations are invited over to the Pastor's house for all the chili you can eat. Mild to very hot n' spicy will be served. You may bring your favorite beverage. If you'd like to watch football, that will be available. Invite a friend!

CHILDREN'S PRACTICE FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Practices will be held instead of Sunday School today and the next two Sundays from 10:15-10:45 am. All of our children have been included in the service and will be receiving their assignments. The Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Saturday the 24th. If you know of any parents who would like to have their children included, please let the Pastor know! May the Lord bless us all once again with the message of our Savior's birth!

FREE!! Free copies of a daily Advent devotional written by Pastor David Schaller are available in the back of the church. They are also available online: www.redeemerclc.info/documents/devs/2010adventbooklet.pdf Also free copies of a program of daily Bible Reading for 2012 called "The Bread of Life" are available in the back of church

CLC NEWS <> Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI has called the Rev. Delwyn Maas, Phoenix AZ.

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.
Malachi 3:1-4

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-4 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, 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 launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. 4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.

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P: Gather My saints together before Me:

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Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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New Testament Reading

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Old Testament Reading for 2nd Sunday in Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Through the prophet Malachi God proclaimed that He would send a "messenger" to "prepare the way" for the LORD. We read...

New Testament Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

In this his letter to the Philippians the Apostle Paul shows how as a faithful messenger of God – even while in prison – he is deeply concerned that the people entrusted to his care will remain faithful until the Day that Christ comes again. We read...