

Pure and blameless for the day of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 1:10



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
“Bringing Christ to the Tri-County Area”

14303 NW Highway 19 PO Box 2090
Chiefland, Florida 32626 Chiefland, FL 32644
Church Phone: 352-493-4597 gslutheran@bellsouth.net

Website: LutheranChurchChiefland.org

Pastor Larry Griffin pastorgriffin54@gmail.com 507-420-2236

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December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday in Advent
Worship Service at 10:30 am
Divine Service Setting One (Page 151)

Prelude
Announcements

Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #341

Sermon Hymn: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry #344

Theme “John the Baptist and the Crowds ”
Three Qualities of Conversations Full of Grace
1. Listening Well
2. Asking Good Questions
3. Speaking God’s Truths with Patience and Kindness

Recessional Hymn: How Great Thou Art #801

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Our Lord shares with us His Precious Body & Blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite those who are baptized Christians who are able to examine themselves on the basis of these three points of Christian faith:

- *I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior from all sin.**
- *I believe that the true body & blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament.**
- *I resolve, with the Holy Spirit’s help to live for my Lord & witness through my actions that He is my Savior.**

WELCOME to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod on this day, 2nd Sunday in Advent

Prepare for Worship. Enter reverently, pray thoughtfully, enjoy the time prior to worship in spiritual meditation.

The Nursery/Lounge is located just past the Ladies room, off the Narthex. Please be assured that children of all ages are encouraged to participate in the worship service.

Fellowship Register: We ask (members, friends, and visitors) to fill out The Fellowship Book which is located at the end of each pew. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1–7b

¹Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 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 a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

Epistle: Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent,

and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–14

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 Ituraea 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.

- ⁵ Every 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,
⁶ and 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."



About the Cover: The cries of John in the wilderness for a Baptism of repentance prepared the way of the Lord's first coming. For His second coming, Paul's deep desire is that we will be "pure and blameless for the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10). The Lord has accomplished this for us by His abounding love that went all the way to the cross. So, it is by faith today that we are counted as pure and blameless because He is the pure, blameless, and spotless Lamb of God who has taken away our sin (see John 1:29).