

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9TH DECEMBER 2018

First Reading

Malachi 3:1–4

Book of Malachi

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm Luke 1:68–79

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty saviour for us:

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets:

from of old

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies:

and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors:

and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the 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.

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

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

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

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

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3–11

The Letter Of Paul To The Philippians

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

Luke 3:1–6

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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.
⁵Every 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;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78-79

Prayer of the day

God our salvation,
you straighten the path made rough by sin:
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Supplementary Readings

Isaiah 63.15-64.4

Psalm 129

2 Peter 3.1-9

Prayer Response

Blessed Lord, hear us
and set your people free.

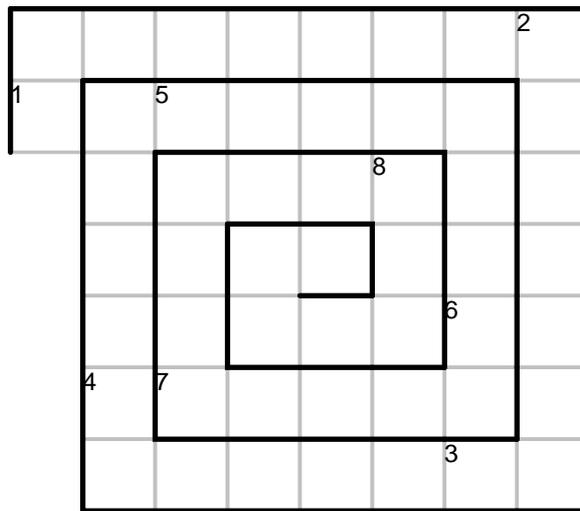
Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6

Look at the numbered sentences, decide which is the right word and write it on the spiral puzzle. A new word starts in each box with a number.



1. Having no bends or curves.
2. To make things or oneself ready.
3. Having a surface free from roughness
4. What we use to speak.
5. To grant a pardon for sin.
6. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface
7. To turn away from one's sins.
8. Having bends, curves, or angles.

STRAIGHT	ROUGH	CROOKED	REPENT
FORGIVE	VOICE	PREPARE	SMOOTH