

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday in Advent - November 29, 2020

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. - 1 Corinthians 1:4–9

There's a saying that comes to my mind when I feel like I cannot say what I really want to say, "Don't talk about it, be about it." Speaking the truth in love means I cannot always blurt out what I really wish I could say! (Been there?) But, there's just so much talk going on around us, all the time. Talk about politics, talk about viruses and masks, talk about how we are inconvenienced and struggle with a new reality during this time of COVID safety measures. But when do we say to ourselves, "Enough talk! Let's do the best we can and continue to rely on the faithfulness of God" ?

At the heart of living in the faithfulness of God is trusting that he is with us, that he hasn't simply created us and left us to our own devices. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were called into the fellowship of Christ for a reason: to live as followers of Jesus. To live like we are followers of Christ means we rely fully on his will, mercy, and care. We are called to share that worldview with others as they struggle with making sense of all the chaos, unrest, and danger in the world. As Christians, we are called to come to terms with what is going on in the world, to be sure, but then we are to stop talking about our woes and start living like we know for certain that God is faithful. If we don't live trusting our Savior, but rather spend a great deal of our time questioning the presence and providence of God, then we are not living the faith. We are not sharing the Good News of the Lord who loves us and cares for us, who saved us from the power of sin and death, and who gives us the promise of eternity.

Sometimes we have to stop talking and get on with trusting. May we be about living like followers of Christ, no matter what's going on. Amen.

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NEW! Livestreaming Service

Bible Lutheran is now livestreaming the 10am worship service every week.

This allows those who cannot come to the building to participate in the service in "real time" by accessing a video livestream through a link on the website. The service is also recorded and posted on the website (worship page) for viewing at any time.

www.biblelutheranchurch.org

The Sunday bulletin and children's bulletin are posted on the website each week and can be downloaded and printed out.

The "family service" sheet is no longer be available.

If you need help accessing the Livestream Service, call Pastor Dave: (912) 661-8735.

Prepare the Way

Find the 42 bold words from Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

P A R T S U T L J P S C Z P A
O Y E Y H T R O W Z H G B P G
O L V D X E R C T R T N E P O
T O I Z U D E U I F A I L R S
S H R S A J H S W O P Z T E P
E O A N N E T T I R W I C A E
U N T I E R A S O G R T O C L
F E M S A U E C I I T P N H E
W Y I I L S L F P V Q A F E M
Q N G Y R A I S A E T B E D A
K H H W I L D E R N E S S I C
T O T M A E O N E E J E S U S
I J I G H M G P A S V O I C E
C N E R A P E R P S N J N B Q
G D R O L R E T A W A Y G I L

The beginning of the **gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**. As it is **written in Isaiah** the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will **prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’**” John appeared, **baptizing** in the wilderness and **proclaiming** a baptism of **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of **Judea** and all **Jerusalem** were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the **river Jordan**, **confessing** their sins. Now **John** was clothed with **camel’s hair** and wore a **leather belt** around his waist and ate **locusts** and **wild honey**. And he **preached**, saying, “After me comes he who is **mightier** than I, the **strap** of whose **sandals** I am not **worthy** to **stoop** down and **untie**. I have baptized you with **water**, but he will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit**.”

God Is Faithful

Find the 29 bold words from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (ESV)

T E P D Q C G I V E N G W G G
H C I T E S T I M O N Y U T N
A A H O C C E S F I C I S K I
N E S N K O U C A W L Z L B K
K P W U C S N T A T Y E Q S C
S G O A E H S F L R G A P R A
S I L J L U R E I D G E W E L
Z F L B S U S I E R E O F V W
H T E R D S F L S C M U D E E
R E F N W S W H H T K E C A W
E C E A G O F A T H E R D L S
C V I K N D E H C I R N E I O
A T E K D E L L A C A Y O N N
P G J R D R O L M N K F E G K
B D K S Y D A Y I Y H J T R D

Grace to you and **peace** from God our **Father** and the Lord **Jesus Christ**. I give **thanks** to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was **given** you in Christ Jesus, that in **every** way you were **enriched** in him in all **speech** and all **knowledge** — even as the **testimony** about Christ was **confirmed** among you — so that you are **not lacking** in any **gift**, as you wait for the **revealing** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will **sustain** you to the **end**, **guiltless** in the **day** of our Lord Jesus Christ. **God** is **faithful**, by whom you were **called** into the **fellowship** of his **Son**, Jesus Christ our **Lord**.