

**COLLECT:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON:** **Luke 3:7-18** (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

<sup>14</sup> Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." <sup>15</sup> Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not, <sup>16</sup> John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.



*ST. Paul's CEC*

charismatic evangelical sacramental together



Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Birthday: December 16<sup>th</sup> (today) = Bill Ruth

Anniversaries:

December 16<sup>th</sup> (today) Fr. Jerry and Clara Meixner

December 18<sup>th</sup> = Jack and Bettye Gilmore

December 18<sup>th</sup> = David and Sunny Simon

Be persistent, don't give up, continue to pray for healing and good continued health for Ralph Kallian, Elton Blair, Jack Gilmour, Bill Ruth, Pat Bird, and Kevin Helms.

Tomorrow night, **December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 PM we will be caroling at Gaye Haven. We will meet here at the Church at 5:15 and leave promptly at 5:30 to be there on time. Please come join us for this happy and joyous occasion. There will be an afterglow Christmas party following the caroling at the Hoff residence.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas ornament exchange will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Looking for someone to host this event, please see Clara if you are willing.

If you would like to donate toward flowers for Sunday mornings please designate this on your offering envelope as "flowers for the Church."

**Rector's council this Wednesday night at 8:00**

## **FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment; he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;

never again will you fear any harm. <sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

<sup>18</sup> "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

## **THE PSALM 85**

You, LORD, showed favor to your land;

**\*you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

**\*You set aside all your wrath & turned from your fierce anger.**

Restore us again, God our Savior,

and put away your displeasure toward us.

**\*Will you be angry with us forever?**

**Will you prolong your anger through all generations?**

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**\*Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.**

I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people,  
his faithful servants -but let them not turn to folly.

**\*Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Love and faithfulness meet together;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**\*Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

**\*Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

## **SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:

Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.