



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

December 7-9, 2024
Second Sunday in Advent

Malachi 3:1-7a

A Real Christmas is Rooted in Repentance.

Malachi 3:1-7a - *"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty."*

When are times you clean up the house or your room?

Why is it important?

God tells us in his word that he comes to clean up our hearts. How are they messy or dirty?

v.1 - God foretold that he was sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. His message was of *"repentance for the forgiveness of sins."* What is repentance?

Turning away from our _____ and turning our hearts to _____.

v.2 – Repentance is not something we can do ourselves. God must work it in our hearts through his message. What does his **Law** show us about ourselves?

What does his **Gospel** show us?

Jesus is like *soap*. Jesus is like the *fire* of a refinery. What do we use soap to get rid of?

What does the refiner want to get rid of when working with a nugget of gold or piece of silver?

What does Jesus want to get rid of in our hearts and lives?

v.3 – Jesus' blood washes away our sins. We have forgiveness in him. We are baptized children of God. Yet we have a sinful nature that likes to hang on to sin and go against God. Our heart needs to be cleaned up each day. How does God continually clean up our hearts?

What are things we can do to make sure God's Word and worship stay a big priority in our lives?

v.4 – Offerings are acceptable because of the heart behind it. What does a heart cleansed by Christ and thankful to him want?

v.5 – What is God's warning for people who want to hold on to their sin and continue in that path?

"but do not fear me?" What is at the heart of everyone who loves their sin more than Jesus?

v.6-7 – It is not our gifts or even our repentance that makes God provide for us and take care of us. We would be lost if it depended on us. God is faithful to us and loves us. That's why we are alive and hearing his Word. How does his love draw us back to himself?

Can you think of a time from God's Word or in your own life when God drew someone back?

Name: _____