

What Life is All About

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 3rd Sunday in Advent
16 December, A.D. 2018
Zeph 3.14-20; Phil 4.4-7; Lk 7.18-28

Introduction

Gaudete = _____ !

I. The Ministry of John the Baptist

What was John the Baptist's entire life about?

John said of Jesus (John 3.28-38). "_____ must increase, but I must decrease."

Jesus said of John: "I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than _____..." (Lk 7.28)

The Scriptural evidence points to John the Baptist knowing that Jesus was the Savior. Why did he send his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Lk 7.19)

II. The Greatest

How did Jesus respond to John's question (Lk 7.22-23)?

Luke 4:16–21 (ESV)

¹⁶ . . . And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah [chapter 61] was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

What had Jesus told the people in Nazareth?

How does this apply to John's disciples?

III. Greatness Understood

Luke 7:28 (ESV)

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

What do you think Jesus is talking about there?

Matthew 20:25–28 (ESV)

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you.

***Christmas Dinner Served by
St. Paul's High School Youth***

**Wednesday, December 19th
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

***St. Paul's Day School evening Christmas
worship service starts at 6:30 pm.***

Menu:

***Ham
Cheesy Potatoes
Rolls
Hot Veggies
Dessert
Drinks***



***All donations received will go to support the
St. Paul's Youth Group's attendance to the
National Youth Gathering this summer.***

***Please RSVP to the Facebook event or to Amanda
directly at amanda@splco.org, with how many will
be attending by Sunday, December 16th.***

Thank you for supporting the St. Paul's Youth Group!

ARE YOU AN ALUMNUS OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

We would love to stay in touch to keep up with what you are doing and let you know what is happening here at your alma mater. Would you please share your contact information with us?

Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Family members' names and ages: _____

Would you like to receive an electronic copy of our school newsletter?

Yes No

St. Paul's Lutheran School graduation year: _____

Years of attendance: _____

In what industry do you work?: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Does your company participate in matching gifts? Yes No

Would you like to share your information with other alumni?

(list would not be for others to use as a mailing list)

Yes No

Current church home: _____

Favorite memories of St. Paul's? _____

But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,
²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,
²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

John 15:13 (ESV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Now what do you think?

Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Conclusion

When John the Baptist’s disciples went to Jesus, what did they see?

What did John the Baptist know that his disciples needed to know?

Life—true *life*—is found only in the forgiveness and fellowship of _____.

CCT: John the Baptist shows us what life is all about: _____.

What does the devil tempt us to do when things are difficult?

How is John's work with his disciples instructive for us?

1 John 4:4 (ESV)

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

What are two key things to do when facing difficulty?

1.

2.

What might be the greatest gift you can give someone?

When you give that gift, where should you encourage them to focus? Why?