

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



*Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
*(Rorate Coeli)*  
*December 20, 2020*

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## The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting three w/out Holy Communion(LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an \*)*

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**Opening Hymn: Once He Came in Blessing** **LSB 333**

**Confession and Absolution\*** **LSB 184**

### **Introit\***

*(Ps. 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a)*

Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;**

**let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

**In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

Which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,**

**and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

let the earth cause them both to sprout.

### **Kyrie\***

**LSB 186**

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent**

**Collect\*:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—<sup>16</sup> just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.<sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.<sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry**

**LSB 344**

**Alleluia\***

**LSB 190**

**Holy Gospel\*: John 1:19-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”<sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but

confessed, “I am not the Christ.”<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”<sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”<sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”<sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)<sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”<sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,<sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”<sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

<b>Apostles’ Creed*</b>	<b>LSB 192</b>
<b>Hymn of the Day: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</b>	<b>LSB 357</b>
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Offertory*</b>	<b>LSB 192</b>
<b>Prayer of the Church*</b>	
<b>Lord’s Prayer*</b>	<b>LSB 196</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord</b>	<b>LSB 352</b>

### **Announcements**

**What does this mean?** The Fourth Sunday in Advent is also known as Rorate Coeli, which, in Latin, means: “Drop down heavens” (The ESV translates as “Shower, O heavens). This is the opening phrase of the Introit, “Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.” (Isaiah 45:8 KJV)

The word "advent" is derived from the Latin words, advenire (to come to) and adventus (an arrival). That we might be prepared to celebrate the blessed Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Lord, the Church has set aside the Season of Advent as a time to reflect and meditate upon the coming of our Lord Jesus in the Flesh, through His Word and Sacraments, and on the Last Day. Advent is also a time of preparation for Christ's coming through repentance and faith.

**Christmas Eve:** The times for our two Christmas Eve programs have been set. Our first program will be at 6:00pm with the second program beginning at 7:15pm. Members are welcome to attend either one. If you are curious which program students will be attending, you may reach out to Deb Albers for further information.

In addition to the two programs, we will be offering a Lessons and Carols service at 8:30pm. While this service may be new to Bethlehem, the order of service is drawn from the Nine Lessons and Carols service that has been performed at King's College in Cambridge, England since 1918. In addition to singing several of your favorite Christmas hymns, you will hear how God is faithful to His promise in sending the Messiah, the One foretold throughout the ages.

**Christmas Day:** Christmas Day Divine Service is December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

**Thank You:** Thank you for thinking of us during our parent's recent illness. It meant so much to receive phone calls, cards, visits, and prayers from our friends at Bethlehem. Your kindness and compassion meant so much. Mike & Kim Eggerman

**Thank You:** Many thanks to all the men who wanted to help me in regards to the LOW tire on my car. Thanks to Elbert & Lois for helping with the situation. I am so thankful that I discovered it near church and then, I knew the people who wanted to help. Christian love was in action. Thanks again, Lucille

**Ladies Aid/LWML:** Please check the north office, there are some Christmas gifts on the table from Secret Pals.

**Private Confession and Absolution:** Our Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time throughout the penitential season of Advent you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

**Sunday School and Adult Bible Study:** Join us at 8:30am for Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**Coronavirus Concerns:** We recognize the coronavirus is still an issue in our country and many members rightly have concerns. However, we do not want anyone to stay away from receiving the life-giving gifts of Christ in His church. Please contact Pastor Jennings to discuss a way that you may to receive these gifts.

**Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, and Acolytes:** We encourage you to consult your schedule, and if able, assist at your assigned service.

**Find Bethlehem on Podbean:** Listen to our sermons and other studies online. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and begin listening.



- Dennis & Sylvia Kleiboeker  
In Memory of Melvin & Adele Lange  
Fred & Linda Kleiboeker  
In Memory of Loved Ones
- Norma Rueter  
In Memory of John Schneider & Loved Ones  
In Honor of Loved Ones
- Earl & Marilyn Schneider  
In Memory of Clarence & Norma Rommelmann
- Wayne & Jen Brink  
In Memory of Loved Ones
- Steve & Sandy Haun  
In Memory of Roger & Rose Hanke  
In Memory of Loved Ones
- Connie Schilling  
In Memory of Norman Stein & Loved Ones  
In Memory of Doug Balance
- Elbert & Lois Brink  
In Memory of Darrell Schneider & Loved Ones
- Cindy & Steve Hoffmann family  
In Memory of Janet Lynn Hermsmeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Hermsmeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Kasten
- Calvin & Jackie Yardley
- Lucille Stein
- Elaine Ballance
- Sharon Schneider & Family
- Rev. Jonathan & Stefanie Jennings
- Joe & JoAnn Stibrich
- Jeff & Lois Pigg
- Edwin & Verdell Hermsmeyer