

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



*Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
*(Rorate Coeli*  
*December 19, 2021*

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**The Order of Worship**  
**Divine Service Setting Three (LSB 184)**

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

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**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn: Arise, O Christian People**

**LSB 354**

**The Rite of Holy Baptism of Parklynn Hanke**

**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:**

**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.**

**Apostles’ Creed\***

**LSB 192**

**Hymn of the Day:**

**Sermon**

**Offertory\***

**LSB 192**

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church\***

**Lord’s Prayer\***

**LSB 196**

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:**

### **Announcements**

**What does this mean?** The Third Sunday in Advent is also known as Gaudete, which, in Latin, means: “Rejoice”. This is the opening word of the Introit, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

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.

**Where did the Gloria in Excelsis go?** The Gloria in Excelsis is a hymn of praise that celebrates God coming among us in the person of Jesus. However, due to the penitential nature of Advent, this hymn of praise is omitted until we reach the joyous season of Christmas.

**Private Confession and Absolution:** The 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 you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

**Children's Christmas Eve Program:** Practice for the Children's Christmas Eve Program will be **Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30pm–7:30pm**. The final practice includes a meal for all the students as our gift to them from the teachers. Parts will be handed out on or before December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Assistant Sunday School Superintendent:** If you or someone you know that would like to be the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, please speak to either Dena Brammeier or Deb Albers. We need someone to take over this position in January.

**Contribution Envelope Boxes:** The Contribution Envelope boxes for 2022 are now in your mailboxes. Begin using these January 1, 2022. Please discard your unused 2021 envelopes after December 31, 2021. If you currently do not have contribution envelopes & would like to have a box, please contact Caroline Tate or Jennifer Brink.

**Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook:** Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.

**This Week in Our Congregation:**

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School  
9:30am Divine Service

Monday: 8:30am–11:00am Preschool

Wednesday: 8:30am Matins  
8:30am–11:00am Preschool  
5:30pm–7:30pm Christmas Program Practice

Friday: 7:00pm Children’s Christmas Program  
9:00pm Lesson & Carols

Saturday: 9:00am Christmas Day Divine Service

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School  
9:30am Divine Service

**Upcoming Services & Events:**

- December 24<sup>th</sup>: Children’s Christmas Program
- December 25<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday in Advent
- December 31<sup>st</sup>: New Year’s Eve Divine Service