

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Rorate Coeli
(Fourth Sunday in Advent)
December 11, 2022

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The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting One (LSB 184)

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

Announcements

Opening Hymn: Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333

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

¹⁵“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—¹⁶just 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.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ 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.**

Alleluia*

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: John 1:19-28

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

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”²² 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?”²³ 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.”²⁴ (Now

they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ 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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **LSB 357**

Sermon

Offertory* **LSB 192**

Offering

Prayer of the Church*

Lord’s Prayer* **LSB 196**

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord **LSB 352**

Announcements

What does this mean? The Fourth Sunday in Advent is also known as Rorate Coeli, which in Latin means, "Drop down heavens." This is the opening verse of the introit appointed for today, "Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness" (Isaiah 45:8 KJV)

The word “advent” comes 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.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer: This morning, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former president of Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) as guest preacher and Bible study lecturer. We are grateful to have him in Ferrin this morning to proclaim God's Word.

Advent Midweek Services: Whether it's a spouse or child, family or friend, coworker or classmate, we often set high expectations for those around us. Yet, disappointment comes when our expectations are not met. During our midweek Advent Vespers, we will take a look at four different sons of men who were disappointments to their fathers - Cain, Ishmael, Esau, and Absalom. Yet, each week, we will also be pointed to a different Son who fulfills every hope and expectation in order to redeem us from our sins - Jesus Christ! So, join us on **December 21st at 7:00pm** for our midweek Advent Vespers as we consider the theme: "This Is My Son!"

Christmas Program Practice: Christmas program practice will be **December 22nd from 6:00pm-7:00pm with a meal from 7:00pm-7:30pm**. You may pick up your child(ren) at the school.

Christmas Eve: Christmas Eve is this **Saturday, December 24th**. Join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At **7:00pm**, the children will hold their annual Christmas Eve program where they will proclaim the Good News of our Savior's birth in Bethlehem.

At **9:00pm**, we will again offer a Lessons and Carols service. This 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 is this **Sunday, December 25th**. Before you get together with family and friends, join us to receive Christ's gifts in the Divine Service at **9:00am**.

Sing and Sip: December 20, 2022 the ladies will be out caroling to the shut ins. Meet at **1:00pm** at school to carpool. After the caroling, the ladies are asked to bring finger foods and join over at Sharon Schneider's for some social time. If you would like to join in the fun, let Sharon (226-3353) know to expect you. All ladies are welcomed to join us.

Flower Chart: The 2023 flower chart is up in the office for those that would like to sign up to have flowers on the altar for the coming year.

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.