Fourth Sunday in Advent "Rorate Coeli"

Sunday, December 24th, 2023 Divine Service 4, Page 203

LARGE PRINT



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School 7308 Wedgewood Drive Black Hawk, SD 57718

Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher Pastor Dennis Mercer

"We are baptized children of God, forgiven and redeemed by Jesus. We are His family, called together to receive His gifts and serve others."

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Greetings to all in the Name of the Risen Lord!

May our worship this glorious morning celebrate the joy and hope, peace and presence, of our Lord Jesus Christ, raised to life for us. We welcome all, especially our guests. If you do not have a church home please consider Divine Shepherd. We would love to have you as part of our family. Please take a minute and sign our guest book.

A prayer before Worship

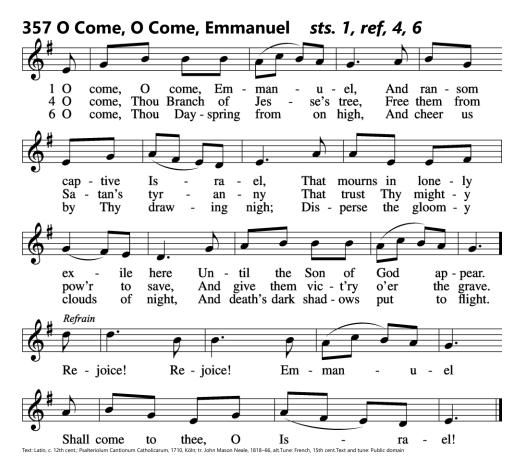
This is the day you have made, O Lord Jesus, a day of new life and eternal celebration! The stone is moved; death is defeated; heaven is open. As Your disciples first saw and believed Your victory over the tomb, so give us joy in the promise You made and keep for us: because You live, we live also! Amen.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated by us this morning in the confession and gladness that, as our Lord says, He gives into our mouth not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His Words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.



Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the blood of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (1 Cor 11:28 ESV) Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or hold a confession differing from that of the Holy Scriptures, this congregation, and the Lutheran Church~Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to speak with Pastor Sturzenbecher.



Confession & Absolution

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and

confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introit *Psalm* 19:1, 4–6



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 glo- | ry 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.

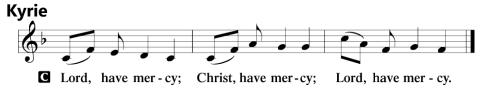
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,* 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.





Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

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. **C 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.' ¹⁷And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.'"

Catechetical Review

The Second Article of the Creed

Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

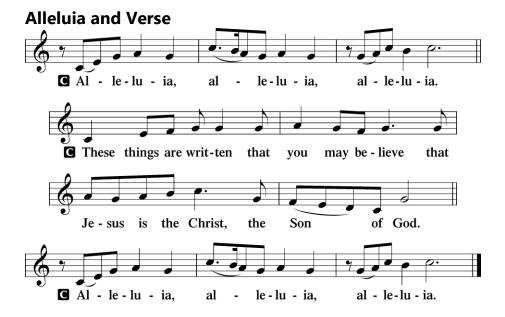
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, This is most certainly true.

Epistle *Philippians* 4:4–7

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

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Holy Gospel Luke 1:39–56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was

spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

933 My Soul Rejoices 1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me great - ness of great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He fa - vor- Sing great - ness of the Lord! With praise and the shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion bless-ing, Join in con-fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might-y and halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the great - ness of God the Lord! ho - ly— O sing the His mer-cy wealth-y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him, sure - ly to - ken All that was spo - ken A-br'ham's off - spring To

re - vere Him— O sing the

ful - fill - ing— O sing the

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Love and

God is

great - ness of God the Lord!

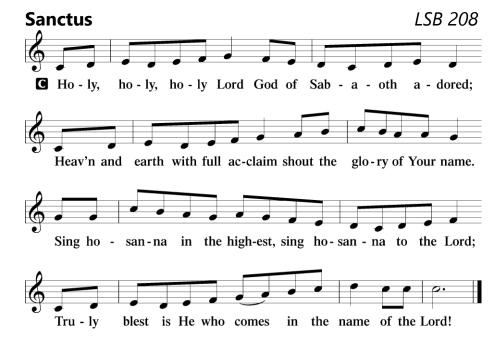
great - ness of God the Lord!

Adult Bell Choir

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

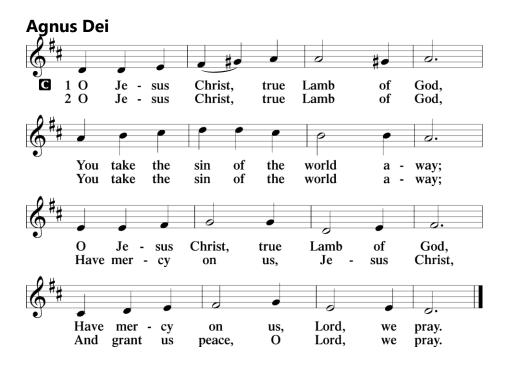
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

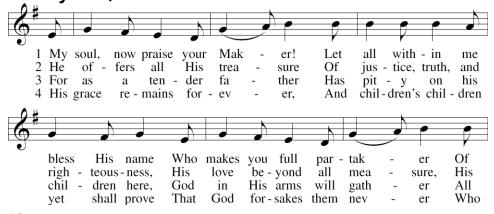
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



Distribution Hymns

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker





358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark. There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies. Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there. 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest! You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small, That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare, It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me: That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.





Divine Shepherd Calendar

Sunday, December 24th

9:00 am Christmas Eve Morning Service

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25th

9:00 am Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 27th

No Activities or Service

Thursday, December 28th

No Bell or Vocal Choir, No Bible Study

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 am Divine Worship Service

5:00 pm New Year's Eve Worship Service

Monday, January 1st

6:30 pm Elders Meeting

The church and office will be closed 25th-30th. Please email the church secretary or call the church number for assistance.

Christmas Eve Service December 24th 5:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

December 25th

9:00 am

Important Dates

There will be <u>one</u> morning service on **Sunday, December 31st** at **9:00 am**. The **New Year's Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm** that night.

"Eyes to See" Higher Things Retreat is **January 14th-15th, 2024**. The retreat will take place at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, SD. Register at www.higherthings.org/events/retreats.

There will be a Voter's Meeting on **January 21st at 9:15 am** between the services. Please plan to attend!



Looking For...

...a permanent bellringer and anyone who would be interested in being a bell choir sub for practices! You don't have to read music (it helps some) but, more importantly, you need to be

able to count to 4! That's it! If you have an interest in praising God through music, please contact Connie Rathert.

Helpers Needed!

When we decorated the church for Christ's birth, we had six helpers, two children and the pastors, Joni and myself. The church looks beautiful and a big shout out to those few helpers!! It was fun working with that group! Now, I'd like to encourage a few more of you to come and help us take down the decorations on Sunday afternoon,

<u>January 7th at 3 pm</u>. Many hands make the work light! (and go faster!) I hope lots of you can join me!

2024 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2024 have been put in your mailboxes. If you are supposed to receive one and do not find one in your box, please let the church secretary know.