

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)



Fourth Sunday in Advent – Rorate Coeli

December 20, 2020

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah – The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Dt 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Lk 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (Jn 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Php 4:4–7).

Ministering to the People of

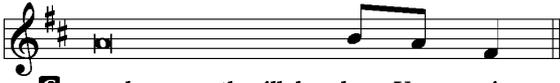
Ball State University Community
East Central Indiana
The World

Matins Service

Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Advent: Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody



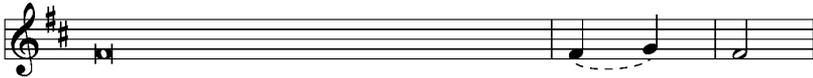
L Behold, the Lord comes to save us.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

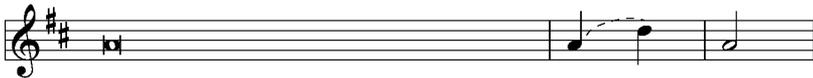
LSB 220



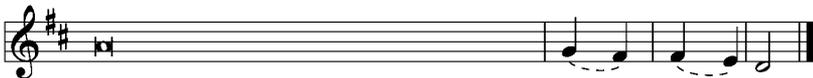
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God,
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



L Behold, the Lord comes to save us.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18: 15-19

“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— 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.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 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. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Canticle

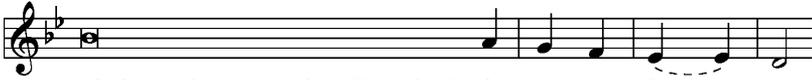
Stand

Te Deum

LSB 223



- C** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



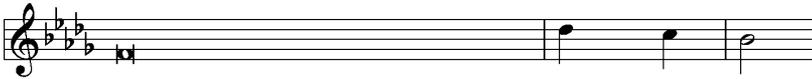
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



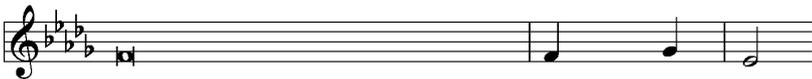
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.

7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,

7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.

7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints

7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.

Sit

Offering

The offering plate is located at the back of the Church on the table in the Nave.

Please sign in using the attendance register located at the end of each pew.

Vocal Choir

“In Silence We Wait”

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227



Grant all those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries thankful hearts to receive Your precious gifts of love and mercy, especially Darlene Phillips, Kathryn Ludwig, Lois O'Bryant, Carson McCoy, and Nancy and David Crowe. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who receive Your Son's holy body and precious blood may do so in repentance and faith and in the unity of a true confession. Work in us this Christmas a love and desire for Your blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

L 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.

Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234



L The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with us all.



C A - men.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
 That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith,
 Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
 As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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This Week (December 20 - 27) at Grace

Matins: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m.

Today: **8:00 a.m. Divine Service**
9:20 a.m. Christian Education Hour

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Confirmation Class

Monday: 6:15 p.m. Handbells
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday: **7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light Divine Service**

Friday *Office Closed*

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Divine Service

Next Sunday: **8:00 a.m. Divine Service**
9:20 a.m. Christian Education Hour

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

12:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Altar Guild – Cathy Branscome, Linda Cook, Brenda Mackey

In Our Prayers

Health – Austin Brammer, Cole Cavanaugh, Jerry Cook, Dean Dwiggins, Jack Elsesser, Pat Hokenson, J. D. Howard, Maryann Huffman, David Kyler, Danny Mackey, Reece Mann, Bethany Myers, Courtney Pape, Jim Potter, Logan Scheiwe, Jim Smith, David Stout, and Debby Taylor

Comfort – The family of Carol Potter

Shut-ins – Jack Elsesser, Lee Kerkhoff, Becky Levihn, Pat Mark, Rod Phillips, Debby Taylor

Armed Forces – Dean Bartel, Matthew Bowdell, Emily Kingsley, Gary Parks, Jr., Hayden Parsons, and Sam Wehmueller

Industry – Business owners, Rebecca Crowe, and Tresa Wildman

Birthdays – Darlene Phillips (12/20), Kathryn Ludwig (12/21), Lois O'Bryant (12/21), Carson McCoy (12/25)

Anniversaries – Nancy and David Crowe (12/22), celebrating 52 years

Thanksgivings – The Hughes family announcing they are expecting their first grandbaby due in 2021. Jesus Christ, a baby born from a virgin in a manger many years ago to save us all!

To activate the Grace Prayer Chain at any time, contact Diana James (765) 358-4446 or log on to our website and click “Prayer Request”— your email goes directly to Diana.

Announcements

Shut-ins – Westminster Village has been on lockdown for over a month. This means visitors have not been allowed at all. Lee Kerkhoff and Becky Levihn are both there but unable to even visit with each other. While our card ministry sends out cards to them on a regular basis. I was thinking it would be nice to have some members send thinking of you cards to them both. If you need their addresses please contact Kelli in the office (765) 282-2537 and I would be happy to get it for you.

Pantry Needs – We are in need of: paper products, bar soap, dish soap, cereal, boxed potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, Jell-O, pork and beans, canned veggies, canned fruit, spaghetti, and pasta sauce. Thank you for all your donations.

Offering Envelopes – Next year’s boxes of offering envelopes are in your mailboxes located in the church lobby. We will not be putting them on the table this year.

Christmas Caroling – We would like to have a few people gather together for Christmas Caroling to our Shut-ins. The date is yet to be determined depending on schedules and the weather. If you are interested in participating with this please contact Mary at (812) 599-6108 or Kelli in the Office at (765) 282-2537.

Christmas Cards and Prayers for the Sick – We are looking for volunteers to help put together some Christmas cards and say prayers for those in the hospitals. If you would like to help with this please contact Mary at (812) 599-6108 or Kelli in the Office at (765) 282-2537. Dates will be determined when we will be getting together to do this.

Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday, December 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Divine Service with candle lighting

Friday, December 25, 2020, 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Divine Service



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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