

Adventide

DECEMBER 21, 2025 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (RORATE COELI)



Bartolome Esteban Murillo. *St. John the Baptist with the Scribes and Pharisees* (c. 1665). Oil on canvas.
Fitzwilliam Museum (University of Cambridge), Cambridge, UK.



AUL SAID, "JOHN'S BAPTISM WAS A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE. HE TOLD THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE COMING AFTER HIM, THAT IS, IN JESUS."

- ACTS 19:4

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved”. -*Augsburg Confession*, Article XXIV:1-2a: The Mass



PRELUDE

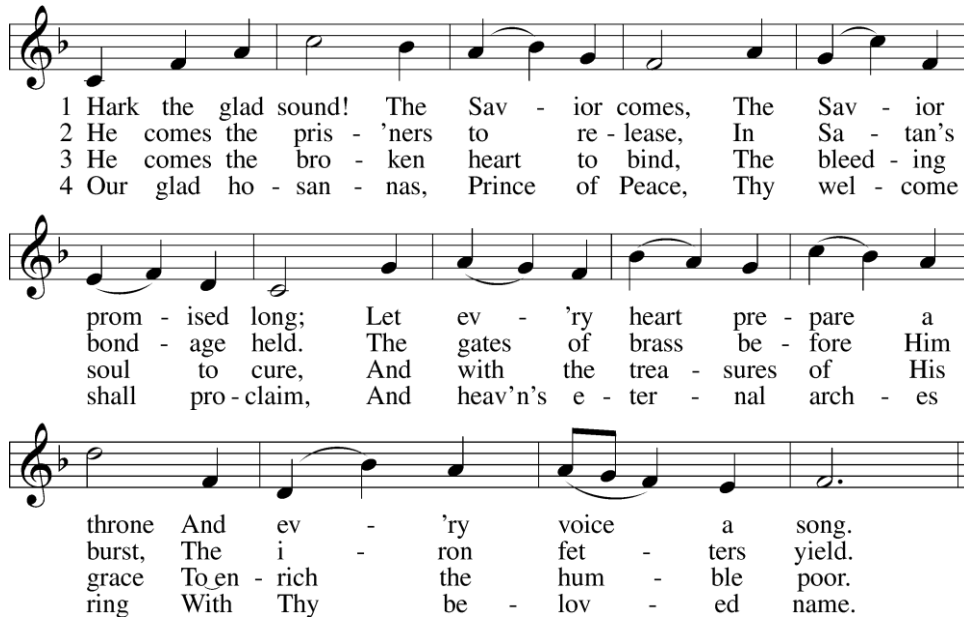
WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 349

“Hark the Glad Sound”



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a



L 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.

L The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.

C 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,

L which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

C 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.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

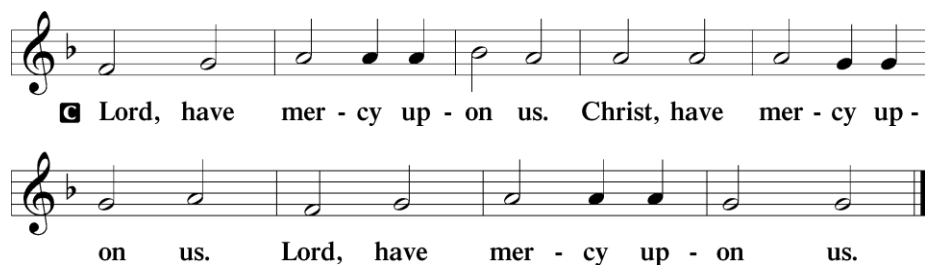


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

L 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 ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



During Advent and Lent, the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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.

Sitting

PROPHECY

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

A The Prophecy for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is from Deuteronomy, chapter 18.

A In those days Moses spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the

LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.'"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 145:18, 21



- L** The LORD is near to all who | call on him,*
to all who call on | him in truth.
- C** 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

- A** The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter four.
- A** Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always.
Again I will say, rejoice! Let your
gentleness be known to all men. The
Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by prayer and
supplication, with thanksgiving, let
your requests be made known to God;
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- and the peace of God, which surpasses
all understanding, will guard your
hearts and minds through Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 40:17b



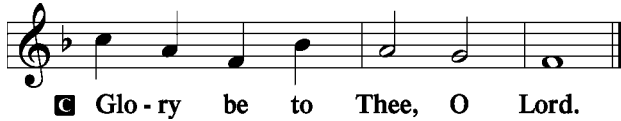
C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

- L** You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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



P At that time: When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John, "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." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of

the LORD,"" as the prophet Isaiah said." Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION First and Second Parts of the Sacrament of the Altar

P What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P Where is this written?

C The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 357

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

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

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Youth Chime Choir

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1–4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Heavenly Father, throughout this Advent season we have heard that Christ has come in the flesh, that He comes to us today in Word and Sacrament, and that He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be kept firm in Your Word and faith until we are received into Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P God of truth, as Your servant John cried out in the wilderness, strengthen our pastors also to preach Your Word of truth in the wilderness of this fallen world. We give You thanks for the men You have raised up for this holy task. Bless them and their labors, and continue to send workers into Your vineyard, that there may be a bountiful harvest. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, we pray for fathers, mothers and children; for husbands and wives; for friends and neighbors; for laborers and employers; for teachers and students; and for all who serve in godly vocations. Let us delight in Your lovingkindness and joyfully serve our neighbor with good works. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P God of justice, You establish earthly government and teach us to obey those who rule over us. Send Your blessing upon all who make, administer and judge our laws, that Your people may serve You in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, surround and sustain those who are ill or suffering with the love of Christ [*especially* _____]. Bring them healing in accord with Your own perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, fill us with joy as we approach Your altar to receive the body and blood of Christ. Give us the peace that surpasses understanding, the gladness no man can take from us, and the hope that does not fade away. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Dayspring from on high and the splendor of light everlasting. By His coming in the flesh and by His blessed Word, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel, enlighten the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of unbelief with the light of saving faith, and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death with the certain hope of the resurrection through Him. 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.
C **Amen.**

Sitting

EXHORTATION BEFORE GOING TO THE SACRAMENT

From Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book. 1931. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 12.

P Dearly beloved! Forasmuch as we purpose to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it becometh us diligently to examine ourselves, as St. Paul exhorteth us. For this Holy Sacrament hath been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

But if we thus examine ourselves, we shall find nothing in us but only sin and death, from which we can in no wise set ourselves free. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ hath mercy upon us and hath taken upon Himself our nature, that so He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God, and for us and for our deliverance suffer death and all that we by our sins have deserved. And to the end that we should the more confidently believe this, and be strengthened by our faith in a cheerful obedience to His holy will, He hath instituted the Holy Sacrament of His Supper, in which He

feedeth us with His Body, and giveth us to drink of His blood.

Therefore whoso eateth of this bread, and drinketh of this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, dwelleth in Christ, and Christ in him, and hath eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death, that He was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification, and rendering unto Him most hearty thanks for the same, take up our cross and follow Him, and according to His commandment, love one another even as He hath loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread, and drink of this one cup.

Let us then draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness. *[1 Corinthians 11:26-29; Hebrews 10:22]*

Kneeling or sitting forward.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[John 20:19-23]

From Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book. 1931. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1.

P Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

C Who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee, by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine Only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins: and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee, and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and hath given His Only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name, He giveth power to become the sons of God, and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

C Amen.

Standing

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.

Please remain standing.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

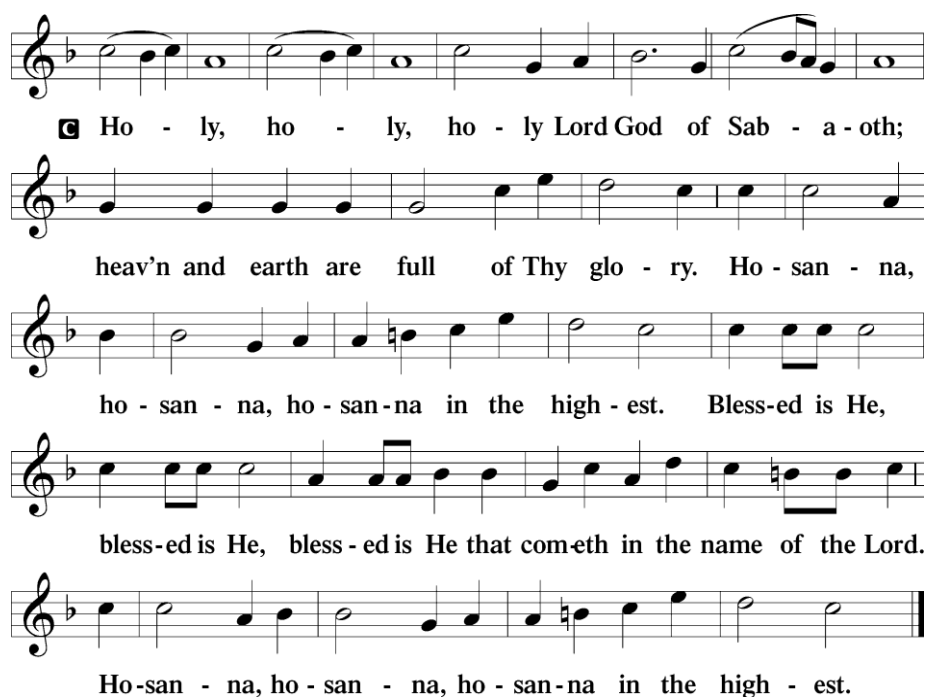
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Kneeling or sitting forward.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv-en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ̣ bod-y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem-brance of Me." In the same way al- so
He took the cup after sup-per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say-ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My ̣ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al- ways.
A A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord 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.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 355

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?

Come down, come down with might - y stride;
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
When will You come with com - fort strong?

Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;

Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

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Tune: Public domain



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

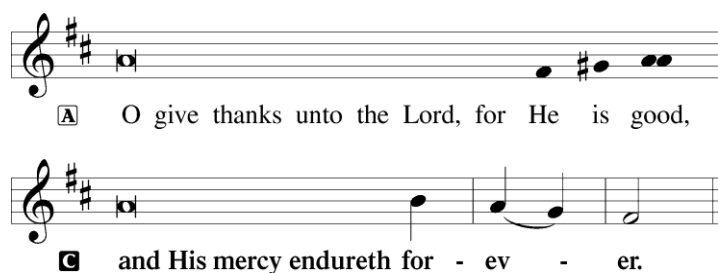
Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



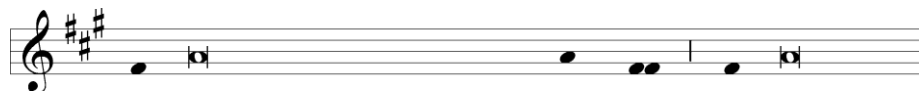
A Bless we the Lord.



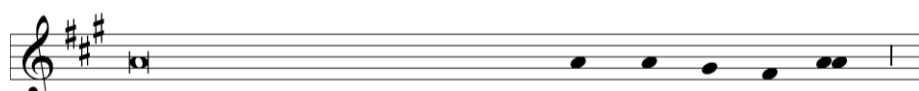
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

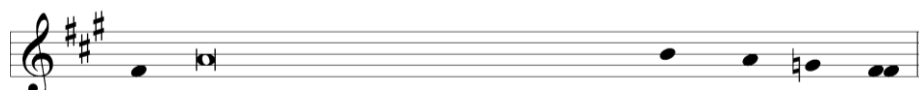
Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 353

"Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Jason Schoellen, *Elder*

Katie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Youth Chime Choir

Fred Durden

Eden Miller

Jude Miller

Titus Miller

Katie Schoellen

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet

Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje

Usher(s)

Ryan Licht/Malcolm Abrahaman

(Isaac Beckman)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Schoellens

SERVING NEXT WEEK

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TBD

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OVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT
COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF."

- MATTHEW 22:37-39

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 12/21	Fourth Sunday in Advent (Rorate Coeli) Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"</i> Holy Mass Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass
Monday 12/22	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 12/23	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 12/24	Christmas Eve Open Arms LCDC Church Office Holy Mass with Carols by Candlelight	Closed 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 7:00 PM
Thursday 12/25	Christmas Day Open Arms LCDC Church Office Holy Mass	Closed Closed 10:00 AM
Friday 12/26	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Saturday 12/27	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 12/28	The Holy Innocents Nursery available Holy Mass Fellowship Hour	9:30 – 11:30 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass

LOVING THE LORD

✝ **CANCELLED: No Adult Bible School or Children's Sunday School. 12/28.**

✝ **Adult Bible Study: *Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Church fellowship hall

Many Christians struggle with prayer even though it's an essential part of the Christian life. "What should I pray for?" they may wonder. "How should I pray?" "What if my mind wanders?" "What if I get stuck praying the same thing every day?"

When asked by his barber and good friend Peter Beskendorf for some practical guidance on how to pray, Martin Luther responded by writing this brief treatise, first published in 1535. This edition is a modern translation that brings us Luther's practical instruction, using his ITCP method:

1. Instruction
2. Thanksgiving
3. Confession
4. Prayer

This method anchors prayer in the catechism or other biblical texts, but allows the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts via the Word, which may be chased more freely by the mind at prayer. Readers will find their prayer lives refreshed and invigorated as they become more comfortable raising supplications to God.

✝ **Midweek Prayer**

Wednesdays at noon

Church sanctuary

Whether on your lunchbreak or just need a break in your day, we invite you to join us for prayer and meditation on God's Holy Word. Every Wednesday at noon, parents and teachers of Open Arms, as well as anyone from the congregation, are encouraged to come into God's presence. We will hear Him speak through His Word, and we will pray for the world, our nation, and the deeper needs of the church and school communities. This service is simple and brief. But it will allow you to walk away refreshed and ready to finish out the week strong!

✝ **Christmas Service Schedule**

Christmas Eve Mass (with Carols by Candlelight): Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Day Mass: Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.

Church sanctuary

✝ Service of Consecration & New Year's Brunch

January 1, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., Service of Consecration with brunch to follow.
Church sanctuary/Fellowship hall

God kicks off the New Year in the best way: blessing! Join us for a special house blessing for God's House! By God's Word and prayer, everything in the sanctuary will be blessed in service to His name: candles, incense, chimes, paraments, crosses, etc. We will also receive a special blessing as we are consecrated anew as His holy people. The Service of Consecration will feature various rites of blessing, but will also include formal Scripture readings, sermon, and Prayer of the Church. Attendees are also welcome to stay for a special brunch afterward, as well as invited to bring a brunch item to share. What a great way to begin 2026!

✝ The Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Mass on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✝ Poinsettias for Order

Poinsettias are now available for order. Please fill out a red order form and attach a check or cash donation. Also, on the order form please note whether you would like the order to be made in honor of a living person or in memory of a deceased loved one, so that we may include that information in the Christmas bulletins. You may place your order in the offering plate. Orders will be received through Christmas, 12/25. Poinsettias will be available to take home either after the Christmas Day Mass on December 25 or after Sunday Mass on December 28. Any remaining poinsettias will be otherwise disposed of after 12/28, so please be sure to pick up your poinsettia(s)!

✝ 2026 Membership Directory

Please make it a point to stop by the table located at the sanctuary entrance to double check that the contact information we have for you in the upcoming 2026 membership directory is correct. If it needs to be corrected, please write your correction legibly next to your current printed information. The draft of the directory will be available for correction 12/21 and 12/28. New directories will be printed and available January 2026. Thank you for your assistance!

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- ✝ Hank Durden, 12/22
- ✝ Jason Schoellen, 12/22
- ✝ Lauren Morr, 12/27

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- ✝ Hellen Kaale, 12/23
- ✝ Jill Drachenberg, 12/27

Confirmation Anniversary:

- ✝ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- ✝ None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝ David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- ✝ Gerhard (Gary) Knehans (brother of Jan Knehans)
- ✝ Sami Malak (father of Pastor Miller's sister-in-law)
- ✝ Gary Miller (father of Pastor Miller)
- ✝ Carol Scheid (mother of Pastor Miller's friend)
- ✝ Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- ✝ Wayne Smith (Clara Smith's son-in-law's father)
- ✝ Rev. Aaron Sterling (Associate Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)

Other Recent Requests

- ✝ Family and friends of Sarah Staebell (friend of Jason Schoellen), for peace and comfort by the Gospel.
- ✝ Rev. Aaron Sterling (Associate Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta), who will be installed as Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd on Sunday, January 4.
- ✝ Tanzania, especially the persecuted Christians, that God would heal all divisions.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝ David and Phyllis Beckman (parents of Brian Beckman)
- ✝ Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- ✝ Thomasena Gaither (sister of Ruth Henry)
- ✝ Ruth Henry
- ✝ John & Felista Kaale (uncle & aunt of Hellen Kaale)
- ✝ Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- ✝ Shirley Lee (friend of Ruth Henry)
- ✝ Jean Meyers (former member of Ascension)
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝ Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- ✝ Pat Vines (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend)
- ✝ Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)
- ✝ Evan Wells (nephew of Darlene Beckman)
- ✝ Jason Wilson (coworker of Hellen Kaale)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✝ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- ✝ English District Bishop Jeffrey G. Miskus & all district officials
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- ✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

4000 ROSWELL ROAD · ATLANTA, GA 30342
404-255-0224 · 404-256-0037 FAX
WWW.ASCENSION-LCMS.COM