

Take a moment to notice the * at the beginning of various portions of the order of service. The * indicates the place where it is inappropriate to enter or leave the sanctuary because it marks a time of prayer or respect for the Word of the Lord. Please be considerate of others around you by honoring these notations.

The fourth Advent candle is PREPARE: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness PREPARE the way of the LORD.” – Is. 40:3 “Prepare!” a voice echoes. Prepare what? A room? A meal? A plate of Christmas cookies? No. Prepare a HIGHWAY. God, it appears is on the move!

Advent means “coming.” Christ came in the flesh at Bethlehem, He comes now in word and sacrament, and He will come again in judgment. As we look forward to His final coming, we find our deepest joy and comfort in His present coming with His very body and blood for our forgiveness. As we receive the Lord’s Supper today, guests desiring communion are asked to speak with the pastor or elder before the service. For Scriptural reasons, we practice close communion.

RORATE COELI (FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT)

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

December 24, 2023

AS WE GATHER 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 (Deut. 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 (Luke 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 (John 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 (Phil. 4:4-7).

*COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord,
People: 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Divine Service IV

Announcements

Opening Hymn: LSB 357
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Confession and Absolution: LSB 203

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Kyrrie LSB 204
*Salutation: LSB 205
*Collect of the Day: (Printed)

Catechism Review

Catechism Recitation Question #28

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Pew Bible Page 302

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Pew Bible Page 1830

Alleluia and Verse LSB 205

*Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28

Pew Bible Page 1646

*Nicene Creed: LSB 206

Sermon Hymn: LSB 347
“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Sermon

Offertory LSB 956

*Prayer of the Church

*Lord’s Prayer LSB 209

*Benediction LSB 212
This concludes the service for online viewing

*SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB 208ff

Distribution Hymns:
“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343
“Once He Came in Blessing” LSB 333

*Nunc Dimittis: LSB 211

*Post-Communion Collect: LSB 212

*Benediction: LSB 212

Closing Hymn: LSB 348
“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Please help us keep our prayer requests current by calling the office (235.6705) with updates – especially with our long term requests and military personnel.

As Prayer Warriors with Love, Inc.: For women - Two women asked for prayer that they would have financial stability in their lives. Please also pray that these women might see what areas are the most difficult to make ends meet in each month, and find a way to improve the stability in that area. A woman asked for prayer concerning her pregnant daughter, and her family. A woman asked for prayer that she would get closer to God as she struggles with her need. A woman requested prayer for her children to be healthy, and safe. A woman requested prayer that her upcoming doctor's appointment would go well. A woman requested prayer that she would have strength and health. Also, she would love prayer that she would find a job closer to home. A woman requested prayer that everything would work out. She is grieving the loss of her first born child who was murdered recently. A woman requested prayer that she would have what she needs to provide for her 3 children. A woman requested prayer for her children as she is going thru a divorce. A woman requested help from LoveINC, but did not want prayer as she is not a believer. She did say that we could pray for her kids. A woman requested prayer over her life to improve, for her finances to improve, and for peace in her home. A woman requests prayer that her children will be healthy and safe. A woman is facing eviction. Pray that she can remain in her home and get caught up on her rent. A woman is in a coma, pray for her recovery and family as they manage without her. For men – A man asked for prayer that he will desire God more and more in his life. A man requested prayer over his life and his health. A man requested prayer that he will be able to see all of his 7 kids now that he is in the area to live. A man requested prayer that he would have healing and life-direction. A man requested prayer that he will do well at this new job. A man requested prayer that he would improve his attitude, from negative to positive. A man requested prayer for his cold to improve, to stay strong, and that God will hear his prayers. A man for his recovery from falling with his multiple sclerosis



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