THE DIVINE SERVICE

OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT + 20 DECEMBER 2020



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 902 S. Maple Inglewood, CA 90301-3824 tgslcms.org

"RORATE COELI"

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

"A Church where God gives and we receive"

- The Rev. Bruce J. von Hindenburg, Pastor (mobile) 559.285.8972
 - Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - Mr. Matthew Meilner, Congregational President

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

<u>Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!</u> We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

Please see our statement on Holy Communion on p.13
Please see more notes on the Service and for the facility below and on pgs 22ff

PLEASE: Upon entering the nave, <u>silence</u> should be observed in order to allow all to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the LORD and the reception of His gifts.

Stay Home when Sick

If you are sick or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home. If you start to experience symptoms while in attendance at a service or out anywhere else, please go home immediately, exiting down the side aisle, if possible. If at a service, notify an Usher on your way out so we may direct our cleaning and communication efforts.

Facility and Service Modifications

Until Further Notice Include, But Are Not Limited to:

Narthex: Do not congregate here at any time

Masks: to be worn at all times in the presence of others

Distancing: Please maintain six feet of separation unless in same household.

No food or drink served after the service.

No Sunday Adult Bible Class or Sunday School.

Bulletin: Pick one up for each individual upon entry, maintaining physical

distancing from others in front of you.

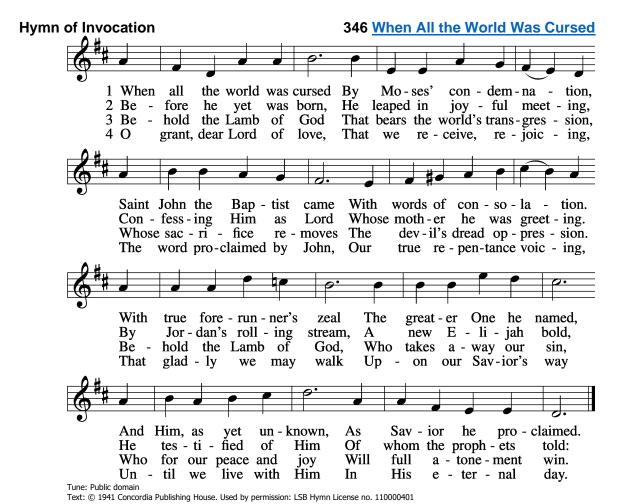
Hymns and liturgy are complete in the bulletin.

Seating: In any open (non-taped) pew on either side of the center aisle.

No Tuesday Matins or Bible Class.

Cover Art: "Magnificat" 1716 Artist: JOUVENET, Jean-Baptiste (1644-1717)

Confession and Absolution



Stand

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

Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Exhortation LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us 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.

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution LSB 185

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 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 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,

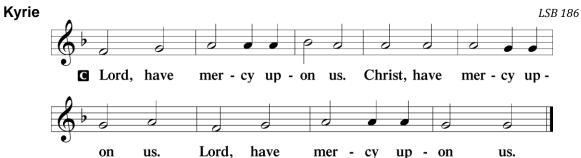
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*

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.

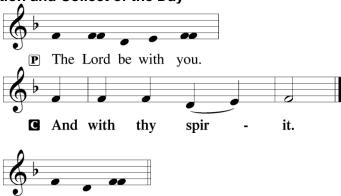


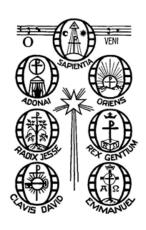
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.





P Let us pray.





P 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.



Sit

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."

- **P** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 145:18, 21

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 Reading Philippians 4:4–7

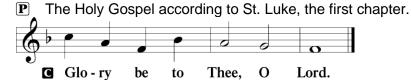
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel Luke 1:39–56



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."

understanding wil

guard your hearts

and your thoughts in Christ Tesus

⁴⁶And Mary said,

[&]quot;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;

⁴⁹ for 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.



Nicene Creed

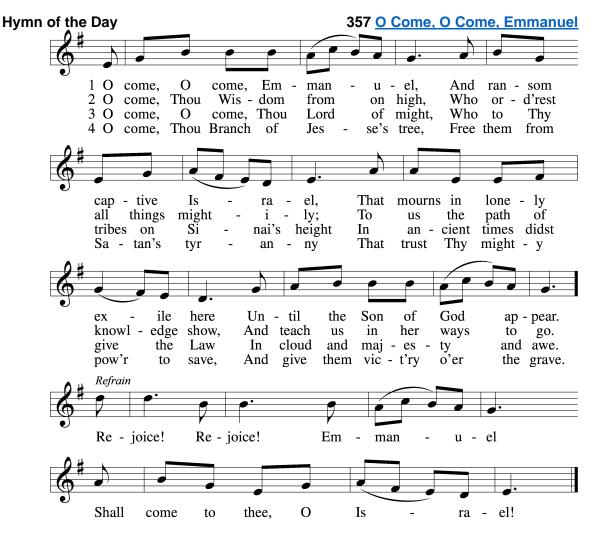
C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the

dead.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit. the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.



- 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
- 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

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon Pr von Hindenburg

Votum

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.

Offering Collected in the Narthex after service.

Stand



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

Brief silence

(In Christian freedom, you may kneel, stand, or sit during prayer, as you are able.)

Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless Matthew, our Synod president; *Matthew*, our district president; *Michael*, our circuit visitor, Johnathon; and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P You command us not to be anxious, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Give wisdom, health and success to the authorities that govern us and those newly elected. Give earthly peace in our time, even as Your Gospel gives eternally the peace that passes all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P Grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying especially Abai, April, Charles, Charlotte, Cynthia, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Irmgard, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Katheryn, Lucy, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Martin, Rex, Rodgers, Royce, Susan, and Susie. Comfort all who mourn with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P 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,
- P 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.

C Amen

Service of the Sacrament

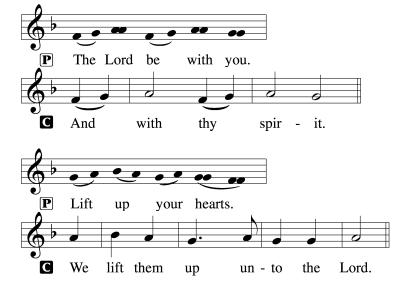
PASTORAL CARE AND HOLY COMMUNION: At The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Altar every Lord's Day. In this Sacrament, we joyfully receive Christ's true Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins.

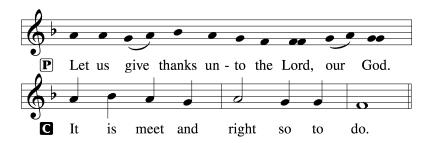
As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession of our unity in the Christian faith (1 Cor. 10). Members of this congregation and those others in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and congregations in which the LCMS is in Altar/Pulpit fellowship are asked to announce themselves to the pastor prior to midnight the eve of the service. All others are invited to speak with the pastor regarding preparation for communion fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Those who are baptized but not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, kneeling with arms crossed at your heart.

Please be assured that we do so not out of spiritual arrogance, but rather in a sincere desire to be faithful to our Lord's command and the apostles' teaching. For more information, please take one of the trifold brochures in the Narthex entitled, "Why?" Sacraments and Closed Communion. For scriptural reference regarding our Communion practice, please see the laminated cards located in the hymnal/Bible holder on the back of the pew.

Preface

LSB 194

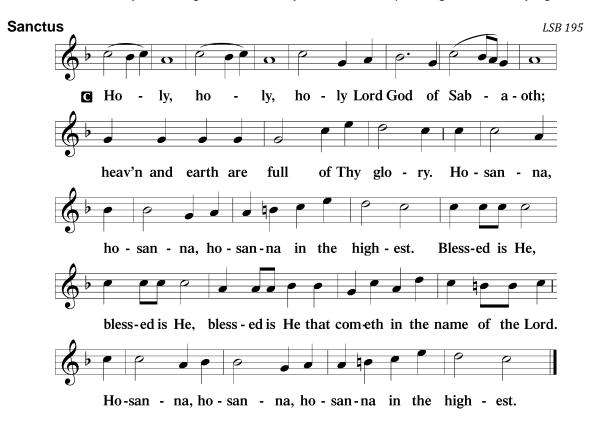




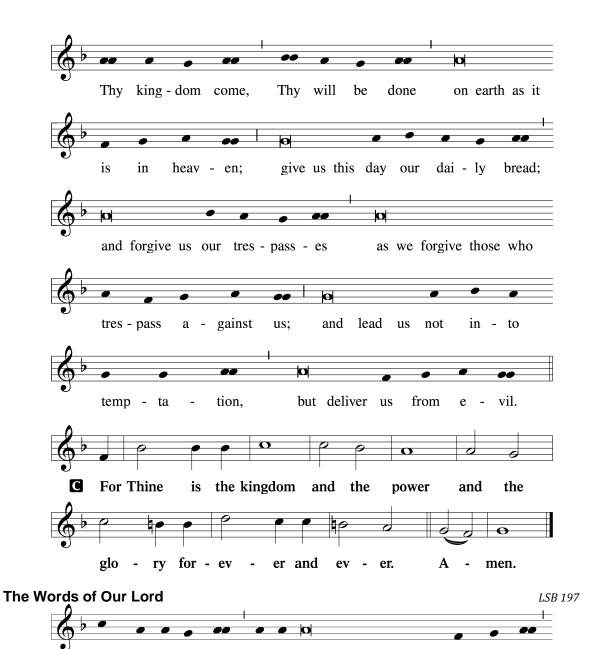
Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:





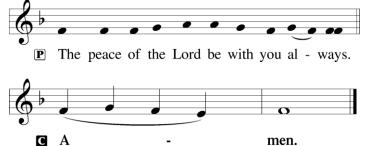


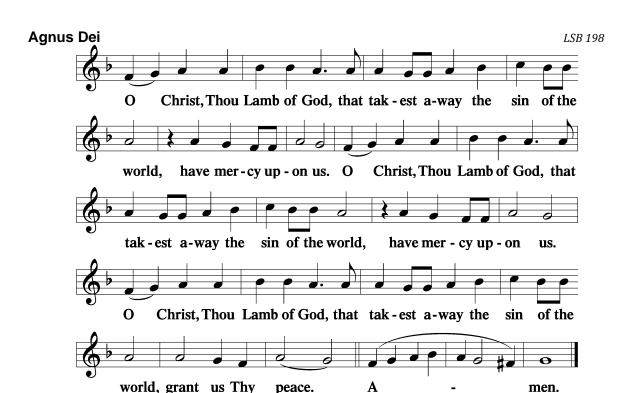
P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,





men.





Sit

Distribution

Please approach the altar from the center aisle, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Please keep your mask on and remove only for the moments to receive the Sacrament.

Responses when receiving the true body and very blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and when your table is dismissed are:

LSB 199

Amen, Amen and Amen.

When all have communed, you will be invited to stand, and the following is said:

The Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 → in peace.
- C Amen.

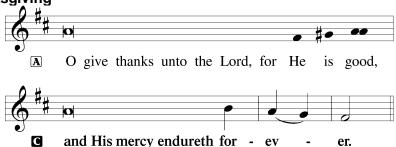
Nunc Dimittis LSB 199 Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace accord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry a light peo-ple Is ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

be, world with - out end.

is now, and ev-er shall

A-men.

Thanksgiving LSB 200



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



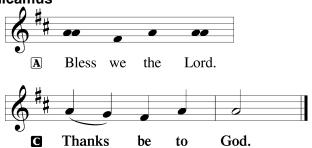
Salutation LSB 201

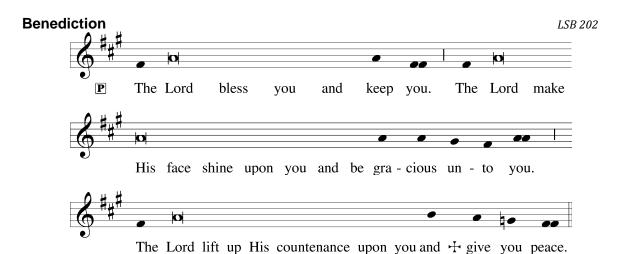


P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus LSB 202

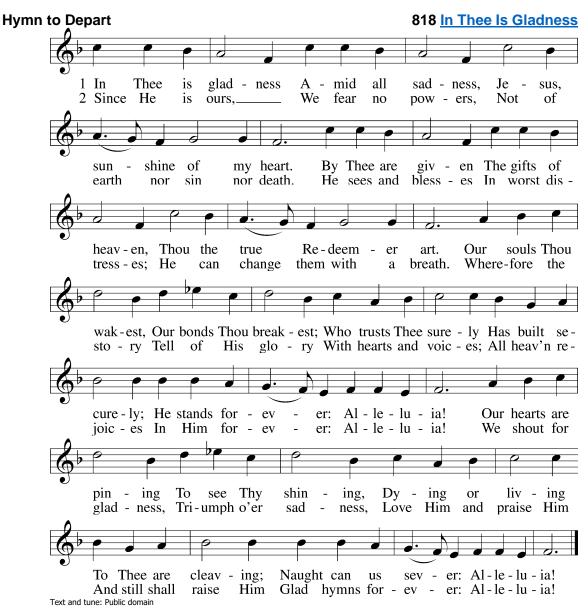






Sit





As the postlude is played, you will be ushered from your pew.

So that this may be done orderly, please wait in your pew until approached.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex, and please wait until you are outside the building for conversations.

In Thee is Gladness BWV 615

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Amani ya Bwana na Mungu akubariki!

[Swahili for] The peace of the Lord and God Bless you!

Acknowledgments

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+ THIS WEEK'S NOTES +

Synod Sentences for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

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 (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 mot her 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).

A Prayer for the Fourth Week in Advent

Lord God, heavenly Father, it is good and right that we should give thanks to You, that You have given us a glorious baptism like that of John the Baptist, and that therein You

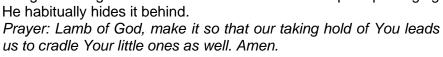
have promised us the forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, and everlasting life through Your Son, Jesus Christ: We beseech You, by Your grace and mercy preserve us in such faith, that we never doubt Your promise, but be comforted by our baptism in all temptations; and grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may renounce sin, and ever continue in the righteousness bestowed on us in baptism, until, by Your grace, we obtain our eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.



The Latin Phrase "RORATE COELI" is taken from the introit and translates to: *Drop Down, ye heavens*

Lutherans for Life Thought for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind.





A Stewardship Thought for Fourth Sunday in Advent

Philippians 4:6 – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So, trade your worries for prayers! You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.

Thank You for Your Offerings - Ways to Give

In Person: Drop in Plate in Narthex on Sundays
By Mail: Send to Church Office

Online: Here / https://tgslcms.org/community-outreach/donate/ PW: donate

Around the Word Devotion for the Week

May be found here



Schedule for Christmas Services

<u>Christmas Eve – Thursday, 24 December</u> Service of Lessons and Carols beginning with Organ Recital at 3:30pm

<u>Christmas Day – Friday, 25 December</u> Divine Service at 10am

We Pray For...

Abai: friend of Pr&K - guidance and comfort (K)

Alice – recovering from surgery **April**: *Karina's cousin* – COPD

Charles: Pr's brother - heart issues

Charlotte: Jamesetta's mother, wife of Pr. Kollie – financial, strength, recovering from surgery(L)

The Dan Conrad Family – our LCMS

missionaries in Mexico

Cynthia – our TGSLC shut-in

Dalton – chronic sciatica

David - DD shut-in

Debra: Jod's cousin - recovering from cancer

Faith: friend of Mary - Stage 4 cancer

The Paul Federwitz Family: LWML Support - LBT

Support in Ghana

Irmgard: friend of Pr&K - 90 y.o. with heart, lung,

and vision issues

Rev. James Kollie: Our Missionary in Liberia;

wisdom and strength (L)

Jamesetta Kollie - kidney failure

Jod – peace of mind, attacks from the Enemy, recovery from auto/bike accident, health

Johnathan – strengthening of faith; continued remission

Karen: Jod's sister – personal and family matters

Katheryn: Karina's mother - various health issues **Lucy**: friend of Pr&K - peace of mind, strength, life

as a refugee (K)

Lynette – strengthening of faith; chronic health issues

Marie – recovering from surgery

Marion and her family – various health issues

around the country

Martin: friend of Karina – financial, various health (K)

Phillip Magness: our LCMS missionary to

Francophone Africa



Rev. Rex Umbenhaur: complications with

malignant intestinal mass

Rodgers: friend of Pr&K - employment; health (K)

Royce – health issues

Susan: *friend of Pr&K* – financial, good health (K)

Susie - recovery from auto accident

The Rev. Tuomo Simojoki Family: our LHF missionary in Kenya – forced to leave their Kenyan home due to SARS-CoV-19 and return to

Finland

Rev. Walter Steele – our LCMS missionary to Matongo Seminary, Kenya (K)

(K) - person living in Kenya

(L) – person living in Liberia

You may notice we have an extensive prayer list. It is our joy to pray for you!

If you'd like someone to be added, or one of yours removed, such as a death (as we do not pray for the dead) or full recovery, just let Church Office know.