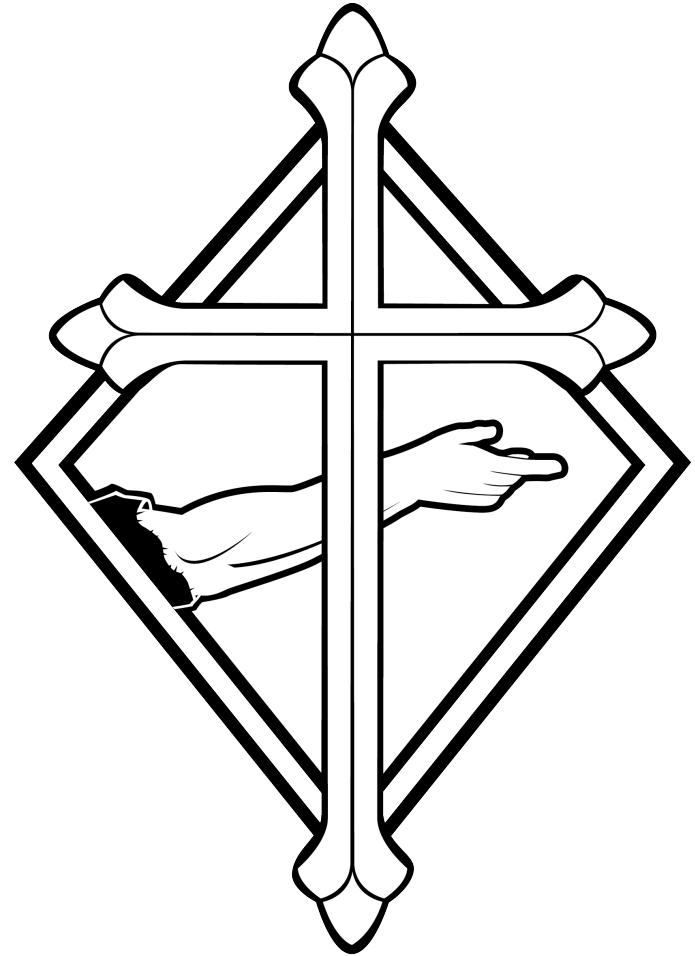


## LUTHER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“All that the Jews experienced serves as a prototype and an example for us, so that we, too, might not pass Christ by and miss him, as the Jews did. He, of course, does not come to us in his physical presence, and yet he personally does come to us and is with us spiritually and efficaciously. To the Jews he came in the flesh; to us he comes in the Word. However, just as the Jews refused to follow Christ at that time, so today people fail to receive him. Now the whole world despises his Word and gospel. The pundits and power wielders of the world say: Indeed, how much credence should we give to these beggars who are preaching today? If great bishops and princes were to preach, we would be happy to believe what they say. However, because these are poor, lowly, despised people who do the preaching, how can we believe them and accept their message? The Jews took the same tack against John the Baptist, the Lord’s forerunner. Oh, they said, John comes like a bushman out of a cave and preaches the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Who is he that we should believe his preaching? If the high priests at Jerusalem were to stand up and preach these things, we would believe. Similarly Christ in his day was scorned personally by the Jews.... In his day they did not receive him because he went about in such lowliness and wretchedness; today his gospel is scorned because it is the word of the cross” (Sermon for the Fourth Sunday in Advent).

## Parkland Ev. Lutheran Church RORATE | THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Rejoice!*



December 22, 2024 – 9:30 AM | Rite I (p. 41)

You may find the "Prayers for Worship" on page 40 helpful for your preparation for the Divine Service.

**Prelude:** Bells - Ding, Dong, Merrily on High  
*arr. Hart Morris*

\* *Indicates the congregation may stand.*

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## THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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### Baptismal Hymn

#246 - God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It  
*stanza 1,5*

### The Versicles and Exhortation p. 133ff

The Baptism of Ava Marie Burkhalter, Quincy Boe Madland,  
& Henry Michael Taylor

### The Hymn of Expectation

#107 - When All the World Was Cursed  
*stanzas 3-5*

*(As the hymn is sung the Advent candles will be lit.)*

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### \*7. The Salutation & \*8. The Collect of the Day p. 45

Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. ♪ C: Amen.

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## II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### 9. The Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-8

"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins."

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven

## ADVENT

The word "Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." This time of year focuses on the three advents of Jesus the Messiah: His advent as a little baby born in a stable in Bethlehem; His advent as the risen Lord and Savior through His Word and Sacraments; and His advent as the victorious King on the Day of Judgment to take His people home to heaven. Especially the second half of Psalm 24 points to the majestic advent of the King of glory. The cry goes forth: "*Lift up your heads, O you gates!*" These are the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem, the gates of the true Church of all believers in Christ. Jesus our King promises to enter these great gates and distribute His gifts whenever His children gather around His Word and Sacraments. Through these means, God enters the gates and doorways of our hearts to bring us to repentance, to forgive and comfort us, and to strengthen and encourage us in the one true faith. Thus the words of the Psalm are true for each believer: "*He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of His salvation.*"

ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### 10. Gradual



All: The Lord is near to all who `call upon Him,/ To all that call up`on Him in truth.

My mouth shall speak the `praise of the Lord,/ And all flesh shall bless `His holy Name.

You are my Help and my `Deliverer;/ Do not delay, `O my God.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad `before the Lord,/ For He has made known `His Salvation.

Remember, O Lord, Your `tender mercies,/ For they `are from of old.

#### 11. The 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. (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### \*12. The Holy Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

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. <sup>(ESV)</sup>

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

♪ C: God be praised for His glad tidings.

**\*13. The Apostles' Creed** p.46

#### **14. The Chief Hymn**

#106 - On Jordan's Bank the Herald's Cry  
*stanzas 1,2*

#### **15. The Sermon: St. John 3:22-36**

*Rev. Steven Sparley*

After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison). Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him." John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease." He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears

witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

## **Baptism, Christ, and the Loyalty of The Christian**

### **The Chief Hymn**

#106 - On Jordan's Bank the Herald's Cry  
*stanzas 3,4*

**\*16. The Prayer of the Church** p. 48-49

**\*17. The Apostolic Benediction** p. 49

### **18. The Offering & The Offering Hymn**

Bells: (arr. Dan R. Edwards) Once in Royal David's City (#139)

*(The conclusion of the*

*Service shall continue in the hymnary on page 57.)*

**\*20. The Collect** p. 58 *Form III*

**\*21. The Benediction** p. 59

### **22. The Closing Hymn**

#110 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*stanzas 1-4*

**23. The Closing Prayer** p. 59

✠ *The Light of Christ goes with us into the world* ✠  
*to shine through our vocations.*