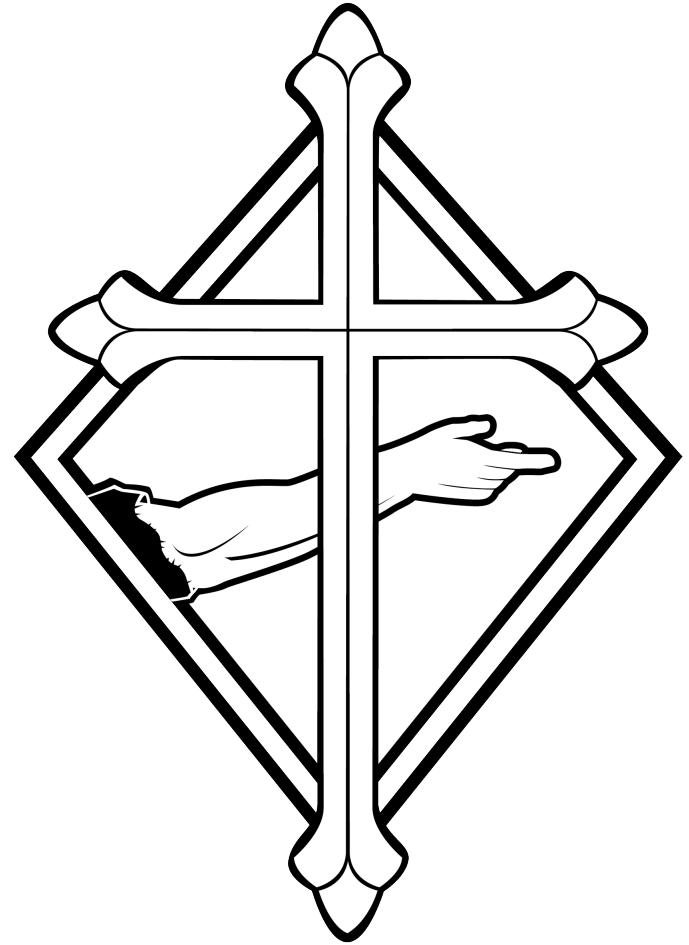


OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

With the quick growth of the world's population after the time of Noah, true faith again rapidly disappeared. Instead of spreading out over the earth according to God's command, the human race lived as a unit. This rebellion came to a head when they attempted through their unchecked idolatrous self-glorification to build a city and a tower (Babel). God confused their languages and forced them to spread out throughout the world. After some time God chose an individual, Abraham from the land of Ur (present day Iraq) and eventually one division of his numerous descendants, the Hebrews, would carry on the true religion and perpetuate the line of the coming Christ. At this point the rest of the Old Testament will concern itself primarily with the history of this lineage and will mention other peoples only as much as they interact with this specially chosen people of God. At age 75, Abraham was called to leave his home country and take up residence in the land of Canaan, given to him by God, although he resides there as a nomadic herdsman the rest of his days. God gave Abraham a threefold promise: his descendants would become a great nation, his name would become great and through his Seed, the coming Savior, all the nations would be blessed. When they waited a long time to have their first child, Abraham, at Sarah's urging, had a son through her handmaiden, Hagar. His name was Ishmael, but he was not the son of promise. They would have to wait until Sarah at age 90 would bear him a son, named Isaac. (*Adapted from "Old Testament History: A Survey of the Old Testament" by Arthur W. Klinck. Concordia Publishing House, 1938.*)

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



December 21, 2025 — 9:30 AM | Rite II (p. 60)

I. THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

** Indicates the congregation may stand.*

***Prelude:** *Christmas Meditation, Arr. Michael Helman*

1. The Entrance Hymn

#108 - Creator of the Starry Height

*2. The Invocation p. 60

*3. Confession of Sin p. 60f *Form I*

*4. The Introit & *5. The Gloria Patri



All: Rain down, you heav`ens from above,/
 and let the skies pour `down righteousness.

Let the `earth open,/
 and bring forth salvation.

The heavens declare the `Glory of God,/
 And the firmament shows `His handiwork.

△ Glory be to the Father `and to the Son/
 and to `the Holy Ghost,
 as it was in the be`ginning, is now/
 and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

6. The Kyrie Eleison p. 63 *Form II*

The Hymn of Expectation *(The Gloria is omitted during Advent.)*

#94 - O How Shall I Receive Thee
 stanzas 9-10

(As the hymn is sung the 4th Advent candle will be lit.)

*8. The Salutation & *9. The Collect of the Day p. 66

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.

***28. The Nunc Dimittis** p. 81-82

***29. The Collect of Thanksgiving** p. 82-83 *Form II*

***31. The Salutation & *32. The Bendicamus** p. 84

***33. Benediction** p. 84-85

34. The Closing Hymn

#111 - When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
stanzas 6-9

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

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

10. The Lesson: Genesis 17:15-22

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"

God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

When He had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. ^(ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

11. The 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.

12. 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.

(The Alleluia is omitted during the season of Advent.)

*14. The Holy Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

♪ **C: Glory be 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. ^(ESV)

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

♪ **C: Praise be to You, O Christ!**

*15. The Nicene Creed p. 69

16. The Chief Hymn

#109 - Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

17. The Sermon: Genesis 17:15-22

Rev. Samuel Gullixson

*18. The Offertory Verse p. 70-71

The Offering & *Offering Hymn

O rich the gifts Thou bring'st us,
Thyself made poor and weak;
O love beyond expression,
That thus can sinners seek!
For this, O Lord, will we
Our joyous tribute bring Thee,
And glad Hosannas sing Thee,
And ever grateful be. (#105, v. 5)

*19. Prayer of the Church

P: For..., let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

...one true God, forevermore. **C: Amen.**

III. THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

22. The Exhortation p. 77

*20. The Preface & *21. Proper Preface and Sanctus p. 72-76

*23. The Lord's Prayer p. 77-78

*24. The Words of Institution & *25. The Pax Domini p. 78-79

*26. Agnus Dei p. 79-80

27. The Distribution & Hymns

Choir:

#110 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#319 - Just as I Am

#111 - When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
stanzas 1-5

#312 - Bread of the World