

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, Michigan ~ 48801

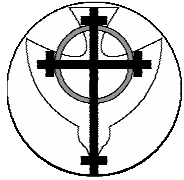
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Rorate Coeli

Fourth Sunday in Advent

20 December Anno ✠ Domini 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. If you are visiting with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by signing the guest book that is in the hallway on the left as you leave the sanctuary. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this morning!

Holy Communion Practice

- 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. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



"John answered them, 'I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.'" (John 1:26-27)

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LSB DIVINE SERVICE 3, PAGE 184

The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayers

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

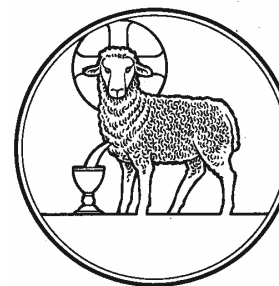
(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Processional Hymn: 343 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

The Confession and Absolution (pp. 184-185)

**From a Sermon by Martin Luther on
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
John 1:19-28**

Now, if you are able to believe that this voice of John speaks the truth, and if you are able to follow his finger and recognize the Lamb of God carrying your sin, then you have gained the victory, then you are a Christian, a master of sin, death, hell, and all things. Then your conscience will rejoice and become heartily fond of this gentle Lamb of God. Then will you love, praise, and give thanks to our heavenly Father for this infinite wealth of his mercy, preached by John and given in Christ. And finally you will become cheerful and willing to do his divine will, as best you can, with all your strength. For what lovelier and more comforting message can be heard than that our sins are not ours anymore, that they no more lie on us, but on the Lamb of God. How can sin condemn such an innocent Lamb? Lying on him, it must be vanquished and made to nothing, and likewise death and hell, being the reward of sin, must be vanquished also. Behold what God our Father has given us in Christ!



The Meaning of Rorate Coeli

The fourth Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as Rorate Coeli, which are the first Latin words of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. Rorate Coeli means “Drop down dew, O heavens” (Rorate, coeli, desuper, et nubes pluant iustum = Drop down dew [i.e., Shower], O heavens, from above, and let

Communicants are invited to pray the following:

Before receiving the Sacrament:

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.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:

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 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.

Distribution Hymns

602 “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”

561 “The Tree of Life”

933 “My Soul Rejoices”

359 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

The Nunc Dimittis (pp. 199-200)

The Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect (pp. 200-201)

The Salutation and Benedicamus (pp. 201-202)

The Benediction (p. 202)

The Closing Hymn: 353 “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

The Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria!



The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Is. 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.
Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
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 Kyrie (p. 186)

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

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.

The 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.’”

The Gradual

Ps. 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.

The Epistle

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.

The Alleluia and Verse



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Verse (choir): Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! You are my help and deliverer; do not delay, O my God!. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

John 1:19-28

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Nicene Creed (p. 191)

The Hymn of the Day: 346 “When All the World Was Cursed”

The Sermon

The Offertory and Offering (pp. 192-193)

(If you have not done so already, please sign and share the Fellowship folders in the pews to assist us in keeping accurate attendance records. Thank you.)

“What Star Is This?” (Choir)

The Prayer of the Church (p. 193)

☐ Stir up Your power, O Lord,

☑ **and come and help us by Your might.**

The Service of the Sacrament

(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)

The Preface and Proper Preface (p. 194)

The Sanctus (p. 195)

The Lord’s Prayer (p. 196)

The Words of Our Lord (p. 197)

The Pax Domini (p. 197)

The Agnus Dei (p. 198)