

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

RORATE COELI

December 18, 2022

Service Notes:

Hymns: 345, 357, 333, 346, 338, 342, 631, 350
 Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-19
 Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7
 Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28
 Sermon: "The Voice in the Wilderness" John 1:19-28

Divine Service Setting One, page 151

Day	Date	Time	Attendance
Wednesday	12/07	5:00 p.m.	83
Thursday	12/08	6:30 p.m.	38
Sunday	12/11	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	93 37

BULLETINS are given in celebration of Donna Metzfeld's birthday.

FLOWERS are given in remembrance of Daniel the prophet and the Three Young Men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even in captivity in Babylon, they remained faithful to the one true God in their piety, prayer, and life. The Three Young Men were saved by the Lord and emerged unharmed in the fiery furnace. Daniel was saved by the Lord after being thrown into a pit of lions.

May we all have such faith!

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK begins Thursday, December 22 and goes through Tuesday, January 3. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4.

SCHOOL/CHURCH OFFICE HOURS will be limited during the Christmas break. In the event of an emergency, please contact Pastor Nuckols at (512) 466-3840. For school-related issues, please contact Bob Cahill at (210) 473-7109.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT BIBLE CLASS There will be no Sunday School/Adult Bible Class on December 25 or January 1. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class will resume on January 8.

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE will collect mite boxes on December 25, the *last* Sunday of the month. Mite boxes can be left at any time in the mite box in the narthex.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	12/18	DIVINE SERVICES	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
		Sunday School Christmas Program/Adult	9:30 a.m.
		Bible Class	
		Festival Choir Practice	after late service
		(in the balcony)	
Wednesday	12/21	Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Thursday	12/22	No Church Service	
Thursday	12/22	No School/Christmas Break	
		through Tuesday, 01/03/2022	
Saturday	12/24	Christmas Eve Services	4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	12/25	Christmas Day Service	9:00 a.m.

WE PRAY for Karen Awe, Bill Blue, Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), James Freese, Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Judy Hanson, Jessica Hetts (niece of Virginia Scholz), Elaine Howe, Jackie Johnson (mother of Don Johnson), Michelle Johnson, Shirley Nelson, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Jeff Pfander (brother of Todd Pfander), Virginia Scholz, Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), and Joan Wolffersdorff (sister-in-law of Donna Metzfeld).

FESTIVAL CHOIR will rehearse on Sunday, December 18 after the late service in the balcony as we prepare to sing for services on Christmas Eve. All are welcome. No previous choir experience is required. Contact Mr. Johnson with any questions at sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org.

DINNER WITH PASTOR We are offering members an opportunity to invite Pastor Nuckols to their home for dinner on Thursdays before church. Please see the insert for further information. You can sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is seeking to fill the role of District Vice President in the South Wisconsin District. LCEF provides financial resources and related services for ministry, witness, and outreach of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LCEF District Vice President acts as consultant to district LCMS congregations by building relationships, identifying needs and proposing solutions (loans, investments and ministry services). To find out more about this job opportunity, please visit LCEF Careers at: <https://lcef.org/careers/>

SCRIP The next order due date is Sunday, **January 8**. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father's in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at www.shopwithscrip.com. The website has a list of participating retailers. **Please note that the website name has changed to raiseright.com, but the shopwithscrip.com link will still get you**

to the correct page to view vendors or place your order. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

2023 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP The charts are now up in the narthex. Please consider signing up to sponsor flowers for the altar or bulletins in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special date or event. We are able to accommodate two flower donations and one bulletin donation per week. The cost for each is \$25. Write a separate check to Our Father's Lutheran Church and put it in an envelope labeled on the outside *for flowers OR for bulletins*. This envelope may be placed *in the offering collection OR dropped off in the church office*.

CLASS OF 2023 COOKBOOKS The Eighth Grade Class is selling cookbooks, "*OFLS Class of 2023 Favorite Recipes*," as a fundraiser for their trip to St. Louis. The books are \$13 with a collection of hundreds of favorite recipes. Contact an 8th grade student or the church/school office regarding purchasing a cookbook. Thank you for your continued support for this trip. The Class of 2023: Sebe, Orlando, Danny, Henry, Joshua, Mayah, Amber, Alivia, Brayden, and Mariah

***OUR FATHER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE CENTER***

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**THE READINGS AND PSALMODY FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
RORATE COELI**

December 18, 2022

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (ESV)

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—
¹⁶ just 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.'

¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, "They are right in what they have spoken.

¹⁸ I 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.

¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And 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.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:19-28 (ESV)

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

²² 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?"

²³ 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."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 111:1-10 (ESV)

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

INTROIT

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.

Glory 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.

Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
RORATE COELI**

“The Voice in the Wilderness”

December 18 through December 24, 2022

The Fourth Sunday brings us to the brink of the celebration of the Incarnation. The Old Testament reading identifies Jesus as the great Prophet who will speak directly to His people and calm their fears as He appears as the least frightening thing of all: an infant. This is the Word made flesh whom John the Baptizer points out is coming to His people. This is the historical basis of our faith. Christianity is not a mythological or invented faith which grew out of the minds of men. This is not the legends of King Arthur, but real events witnessed by many people. God has entered into our confused, sinful world. He has taken on our flesh that He might save us from our sins. Truly, the heavens above rain down righteousness and the earth opens her womb.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

THE CREED

VERSE: ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” **Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: Stir up your power, O Lord, we implore You, and come among us, that by Your grace whatever is hindered by our sins may yet be speedily accomplished through Your mercy and satisfaction; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 111

PSALMODY PRAYER: You, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion and Your works are beyond understanding. Give to us the wisdom that comes from faith that we may cling to Your redemption and walk in Your commandments. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Luke 1:39-56
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-80
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-7
Thursday	Luke 2:8-14
Friday	Luke 2:15-20
Saturday	John 1:1-18 (text for Christmas Day)

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: The Lord’s Prayer

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by him; for he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

Luther, Luke 1:53: Even so, by the hungry are not meant those who have little or nothing to eat, but those who gladly suffer want, especially if they are forcibly compelled by others to do so for the sake of God or the truth. Who is lowlier, more despised, and needier than the devil and the damned, or than men who are tortured, starved, or slain on account of their evil deeds, or all who are lowly and in want against their will? Yet that does not help them but only adds to their misery. Of them the Mother of God does not speak, but of those who are one with God and God with them, and who believe and trust in Him. On the other hand, what hindrance was their riches to the holy fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? What hindrance was his royal throne to David, or his authority in Babylon to Daniel? Or their high station or great riches to those who had them or who have them today, provided they do not set their hearts on them or seek their own advantage in them? Solomon says in Proverbs 16:2: “The Lord weighs the spirit”; that is, He judges not according to the outward appearance, whether one is rich or poor, high or low, but according to the spirit and how it behaves itself within. There must needs be such differences and distinctions of persons and stations in our life here on earth; yet the heart should neither cling to them nor fly from them—neither cling to the high and rich nor fly from the poor and lowly. ... A rich man is not aware how really empty and wretched he is until he comes to die or otherwise suffers loss. Then only does he see how all his goods were altogether nothing, as it is said in Psalm 76:5: “They sank into sleep (that is, they died); all the rich men discovered that they had nothing in their hands.” On the other hand, the hungry and thirsty know not how filled with good things they are until they come to the end. Then they find the words of Christ true, in Luke 6:21: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be filled”; and the comforting promise of the Mother of God here: “He has filled the hungry with good

things.” It is utterly impossible for God to let anyone who trusts in Him die of starvation; all angels would have to come and feed him. Elijah was fed by ravens and lived for many days on a handful of meal, he and the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:6, 15). God cannot forsake those who trust in Him. ... Now, he is righteous that trusts in God. Again, in Psalm 34:10: “The rich suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.” ... But our wretched unbelief always hinders God from working such works in us, and ourselves from experiencing and knowing them. We desire to be filled and have plenty of everything before hunger and want arrive. We lay up provision against future hunger and need, so that we no longer have need of God and His works. What sort of faith is that which trusts in God, when all the while you feel and know that you have goods laid up to help yourself? It is because of our unbelief that we see God’s Word, the truth, and the right defeated and wrong triumph and yet remain silent, do not rebuke, speak out, or prevent it, but let things go as they will. Why? We are afraid that we, too, might be attacked and made poor and might then perish of hunger and be forever laid low. That is to esteem temporal goods more than God and to put them in God’s place as an idol. If we do this, we do not deserve to hear or to understand this comfortable promise of God: that He exalts the lowly, puts down the mighty, fills the poor, and empties the rich. (LW 21:345-347, CPH, 1956)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.** **OR**

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *LSB 345 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”* (stanza 2)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO
CHRISTMAS DAY**

December 25, 2022
“Dwelling Among Us”

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 379, 372, 382, 384, 360, 359, 389, 381

READINGS

Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38
Titus 3:4-7
John 1:1-18

Dear fellow members,

The holidays are rapidly approaching and the Elders along with Pastor have come up with this schedule which we will only "**TRY**" for this year. One particular reason for reducing services is due to lower attendance than we have seen over the past five years.

Thanksgiving Eve and Day:

Wednesday November 23rd - 6:30 PM with Holy Communion

Thursday November 24th - NO service

Advent:

November 30th (School youth will be singing)

December 7th

December 14th

NOTE: We will have ONE service at 5:00 PM, with a light meal afterwards

(Mt. Zion has ONE service at 6:30 PM on these dates if you could not make the 5:00 PM service)

School Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols:

Friday December 16th - 6:30 PM

Sunday School Christmas Service:

Sunday December 18th - 9:30 AM (during Bible Study)

Christmas:

Thursday December 22nd - NO service

Saturday December 24th - 4:00 and 6:00 PM only

Sunday December 25th - ONE service, 9:00 AM with Holy Communion

(No Bible class or Sunday School)

Thursday December 29th - NO service

New Year's Eve: NO service

New Year's Day: ONE service, 9:00 AM with Holy Communion

(No Bible class or Sunday School)

Epiphany:

Thursday January 5th, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Any questions please contact Dave Felber

414-793-5193

davidfelber1@gmail.com



INVITE OUR PASTOR TO DINNER



Pastor Nuckols starts each Thursday at 7:30 a.m. leading the faculty devotions, and ends his Thursday with the Divine Service in the evening. This long day bestows us with a wonderful opportunity to provide Pastor with a light meal and a get-acquainted visit. Pastor will be available to visit and dine from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with available dates, if you would like to host a dinner for Pastor. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Lagerman at 414-333-7994.

Thank you.