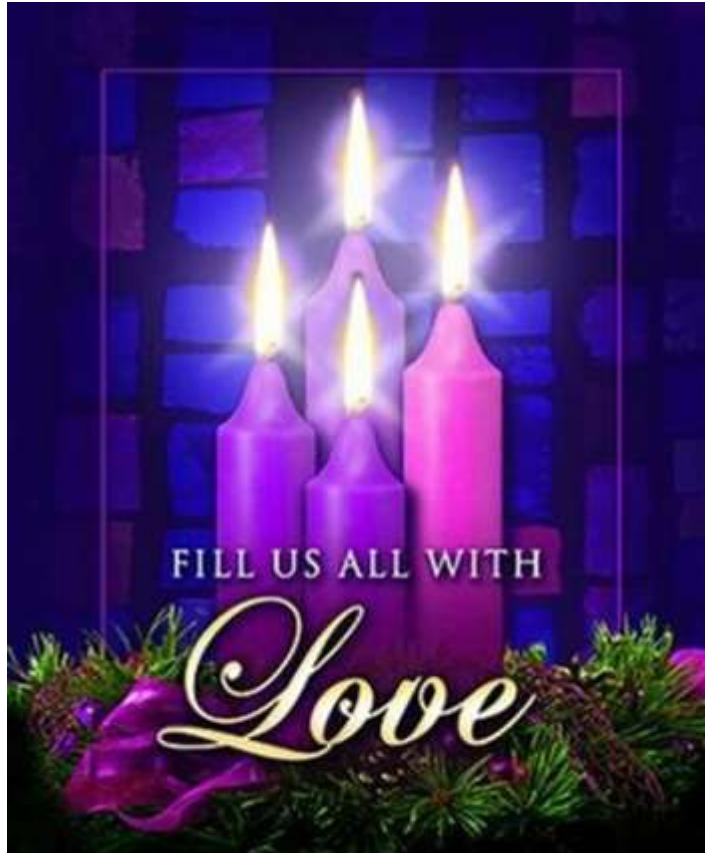


Rorate Coeli / The 4th Sunday of Advent
The Confession of St. John the Baptist
December 20, 2020
11:00am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ST. PAUL

— BEREAST. 1866 —

W E L C O M E

To know and serve Christ by reaching out in love to all.

Please wear a mask during this service and while you are in the building.

This service has been modeled after the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One and does not include congregational singing. All singing will be done by Pastor and secluded choir members.

Our financial gifts are offered as a response to what God has given us, and as a reminder that we are caretakers of the world he created. Our members support this church. Visitors are not expected to give an offering. Offerings will be collected in the plates as you exit the nave.

Ushers will direct the way to exit after the service.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Your health is our concern.



*Hear every word on your smart phone with **Listen Everywhere**.*

1. Join our WiFi

WiFi: **Sound**

Password: **Listen@276**

2. Download *Listen Everywhere*
from Apple or Google app store.

3. Launch—tap channel, and listen.



Due to necessary restrictions on congregational singing, Pastor and choir members will sing the congregation's parts throughout the service.

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LBW 42

↑ Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please kneel as you are able.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Please stand.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

↓ **Introit** (*Psalm 19:1-4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a*)

R: 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.

P: 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.

R: 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of **love**.
Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is love in human form.
We light this candle in love.

The assistant lights three purple candles and the rose candle.

P: We pray: Loving God, thank you for the love you have shown us in Jesus Christ your son, our Lord. Prepare our hearts for his coming, and help us to love others as you have first loved us. We ask it in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Greeting and Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

C: Amen.



The Hebrew Scriptures (*Deuteronomy 18:15-19*)

A: A reading from Deuteronomy:

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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol Reflection

Prepare to Receive Him

J.S. Bach arr. Currie

The Christian Scriptures (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

A: A reading from Philippians:

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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑ The Gospel Acclamation

R Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.



The Holy Gospel (John 1:19-28)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

↓ Choral Reflection *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

LBW 36

Sermon

Pastor Dan Skillman

Announcements

Prayers of the People

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promises to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, give for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,

he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.



P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup,

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy one of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

↓ Distribution



Advent Invitation

R:

***Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.***

***Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.***

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

R:

***Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.***

***Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.***

Post-Communion Collect

A: We pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Choral Sending

The King Shall Come

LBW 33

(Verses 1,4, 5)

Dismissal

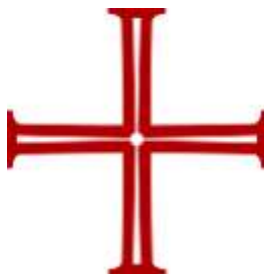
A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

J.G. Walther



Contributors to the Service

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dan Skillman

Organist

Richard Shirey

Assisting Minister

Jon Montag

Covenant Singers

*Andrea Soncina, Mary Murphy, Shaun McGrath,
Loren Reash-Henz*

Ushers

Members of Team 5 and 6

Audio/Video

Phillip Sultan, Jeff Campbell, Nate French



NEXT SERVICES

December 24, 2020

All Day

Pre-recorded Caroling Service on YouTube

5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 pm “In-Building” by reservation

9:00 pm live on YouTube

Christmas Eve / The Nativity According to St. Luke

READINGS

Luke 2:1-20 (Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14)

December 25, 2020

11:00 am “In-Building” by reservation

11:00 am live on YouTube

Christmas / The Nativity According to St. John

READINGS

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

December 27, 2020

9:00 am “Drive In” “Kar Karoling” Service

11:00 am “In Building”

Nunc Dimittis / First Sunday After Christmas

READINGS

Luke 2:22-40 (Isaiah 11:1-5, Galatians 4:1-7)

Listen again to music and sermons: www.stpaulberea.org/music

Watch again by following YouTube at: www.stpaulberea.org

Sermon Notes

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<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Aaron Ozanich</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jen Hinton</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>	<i>Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenschenkel, Phillip Sultan, Rob Winwood, Donna Tindera, Dan Skillman</i>

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<i>Nursery Care Attendant</i>	<i>Gail Brandt</i>
<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Gail Voigt-Ryan</i>

Early Education Center

<i>Board Chair</i>	<i>Joan Holden</i>
<i>Director & Teachers</i>	<i>Liz Campbell & Sharon Genther</i>

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekdays 9-12, 1-4

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