

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

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December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy - Divine Service Setting Three (pg. 184)

Opening Hymn: 355 "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

Hymn of the Day: 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Offertory: 956 "Create in Me"

Distribution Hymn: 354 "Arise, O Christian People"

Distribution Hymn: 392 "God Loves Me Dearly"

Distribution Hymn: 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Distribution Hymn: 355 "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

Closing Hymn: 359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer Requests

Please email prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, Lorna Heitman, Loren Bott,

JoAnn Ohlde, & Marilynne Ohlde (nursing home)

Acolyte today - Nolan Meier

Acolyte Sun., Dec. 29th - Sophia Hiltgen

Ushers today - *Aaron Stuenkel, Dylan Ohlde, Emmitt Tiemeyer, & Conner Ohlde

Ushers Dec. 29th - *Ryan Stuenkel, Ethan Bott, Mason Tiemeyer, & Noah Thalmann

LYF Fellowship Service today - Ethan & Gretchen Bott

LYF Fellowship Service Dec. 29th & Jan. 5th - Aiden Sweet & Liam Voelker

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 22 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Kids' Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 24 6:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Program
- Dec. 25 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
- Dec. 29 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
- Dec. 31 7:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion with
Installation of Officers (NYE/Eve of the Name of Jesus)

Announcements

- LCMS memory verse challenge: **Philippians 4:4-5 - "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."**
- Thank you to Mary Oelschlager and Diane Walter for donating the poinsettia plants at the front of the church!
- A 9-week class will be offered at Zion, Linn, that focuses on Biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you. Contact Jacob Harding at jacob.harding85@gmail.com or text (308-391-9360) to sign up. See our bulletin board for a flyer with more information on this class starting **Jan. 19th**.
- Pastor Hayes is deliberating a call from Trinity Lutheran Church and Luther Classical College in Casper, WY to serve as assisting pastor, Professor of Theology and Classical Languages, and also Dean of Chapel. He intends to give them an answer on Dec. 29. Please keep his family, our congregation, and the church and college in Casper in your prayers.

As We Gather... John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. (1 John 1:8-10)
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. (Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)
- I desire to live as God wants me to. (John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. (John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

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.



Introit (Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 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.**

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.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

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.

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—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.’”

Gradual (*Psalm 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.**

Epistle Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

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.

Alleluia Verse (*Psalm 40:17b*)

Alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-56*

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of

my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Meaning of *Rorate Caeli*

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

Catechetical Review

An Explanation of the Small Catechism
The Apostles' Creed – The Second Article (Cont.)

The Two Natures of Jesus Christ

121. What two natures, therefore, are united in the one person of Jesus Christ?

The divine and human natures are united in Jesus Christ. This personal union began when He became man (incarnation) and continues forever.

408 **John 1:14** - The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

409 **1 Timothy 3:16** - Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body.

410 **Colossians 2:9** - In Christ all fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

411 **Isaiah 9:6** - To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

412 **Matthew 28:18** - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

413 **Matthew 28:20** - Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

414 **Acts 3:15** - You killed the author of life.

415 **1 John 1:7** - The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, purifies us from every sin.

416 **Acts 20:28** - Be shepherd of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.

122. Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true man?

Christ had to be true man in order to

A. act in our place under the Law and fulfill it for us (active obedience);

417 **Galatians 4:4-5** - When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, the two might receive the full rights of sons.

418 **Romans 5:19** - Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

B. be able to suffer and die for our guilt because we failed to keep the Law (passive obedience).

419 **Colossians 1:22** - He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

420 **Hebrews 2:14** - Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil.

Rorate Caeli



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