

LESSONS FOR LAMBS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (RORATE COELI)

The phrase "Rorate Coeli" is from the Latin language. In English it means "Drop down heavens." These are the first words of the Psalm/Introit this week. Look in your parent's service folder and read the Introit. The color for Advent is blue or purple.



P T B P R I E S T S J O
W I C R D S I S R A E L
I S H O A S J O H N W O
L B A P T I S T H D S R
D A R H W D O N F A E D
E D I E L I J A H L S B
R V O T C H R I S T A A
N E T L L W O R S H I P
E N A J W C O M F O R T
S T Y A H W E H I W P I
S A V I O R W A T E R Z
V R R D C T O V O I C E

Advent	prophet	chariot	comfort
Elijah	priests	baptize	Christ
water	Baptist	wilderness	Lord
Jews	sandal	Israel	Savior
voice	worship	John	Yahweh

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What to listen for during the service?

Listen for everyone to sing the hymn, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People," which is the Hymn of the Day for this week. The Hymn of the Day is the hymn with the same theme as the Gospel reading. It usually occurs right before or right after the sermon.

Gospel Reading: John 1:19-28

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

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.

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) Whom did the Jews send to talk to John the Baptist?
- 2) What was John the Baptist doing that made them come ask if he was the Savior?
- 3) People came to John the Baptist thinking he was the Savior, but he pointed them to someone else. Who did John the Baptist point them to as the Savior?
- 4) What did John want them to know as the "voice of one crying out in the wilderness"?
- 5) What did John mean when he said that he was not worthy to untie the sandal of Jesus?

People of the Bible: Elijah

In the Gospel reading today, we hear again about John the Baptist whom we learned about in last week's lesson. In today's reading he says that he is not the Christ nor Elijah. But who is Elijah? Elijah was a prophet of the Old Testament and preached to the people of Israel. He encouraged the

people to only worship Yahweh, which is another name for God. The people were confused, and Elijah urged them to be strong in the faith of the one true God and worship Him alone. At the end of his ministry, Elijah went up into heaven in a chariot of fire. The Jews were waiting for Elijah to return to them.

Hymn of the Day – "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" *(Listen for this hymn during the service and sing along if you hear it.)*

- 1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.