



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli

Shower, O heavens

December 20, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Parrish, FL 34219

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Rev. Patrick Poock

Opening Hymn *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

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Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Declaration of Grace

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

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

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above,

Cong.: **and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**

Pastor: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

Cong.: **let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God,

Cong.: **and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

Pastor: Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Cong.: **In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

Pastor: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

Cong.: **and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Pastor: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

Cong.: **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 beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above,

Cong.: **and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**

Pastor: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

Cong.: **let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.**

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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4: 4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonable-ness 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

+ALLELUIA & VERSE+ (sung)

LSB 156

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia*

Holy Gospel

Luke 1: 39-56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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 away empty.* ⁵⁴ *He has helped his*

servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

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SERMON

Nicene Creed

p. 158

I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

who spoke by the prophets.

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

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.

Collect

P Lord God, we humbly confess to You that we deserve Your fatherly chastisement for our sins; yet we earnestly implore You, for Your name's sake, to spare us in this time of disaster. Restrain all harmful powers and help Your suffering people that Your Word may be declared faithfully and without hindrance and that we, amending our sinful lives, may walk in safety and peace according to Your holy commandments; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Patrick Poock

Organist: Bill Vlasak