

Celebrating 141 years of God's Blessings

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY...

Before we begin, please:

+ **Sign in the "Fellowship Pad"**, and pass it down your pew. Both visitors and members are asked to fill in their information. You can do this before the service, or during the offering.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the page for liturgy, and one of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the pages of the Scripture readings in the pew Bibles, if you wish to follow along.

+ **Introduce yourself** to our Pastor, if it's your first time with us; and all are encouraged to greet and get to know their fellow worshipers.

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In Holy Communion, we joyfully receive Christ's Body & Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. In participating, we publicly confess our unity in Christ's Body, and a harmony of teaching and practice. Congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion. Guests who desire to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with the pastor before the service, to answer any questions you may have. You may also wish to review Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on pp. 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book, and refer to the "Before worship" and "Before communing" prayers inside the front cover of LSB.

If you are not in fellowship with our Synod, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply indicate that by folding your arms over your heart while at the communion rail.

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GOD'S WORD TODAY

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).

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.
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 OF THE DAY

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.

STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES FROM SYNOD

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So trade your worries for prayers! You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.

4th Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2017
Order of Service
Lutheran Service Book
Divine Service, setting three

PRELUDE

HYMN p.332
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

μ LITURGY p.184

μ INTROIT bulletin p.3

μ COLLECT OF THE DAY bulletin p.3

OLD TESTAMENT Deut. 18:15-19 p.205

EPISTLE Philippians 4:4-7 p.1250

μ VERSE

μ GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38 p.1088

μ NICENE CREED p.191

HYMN OF THE DAY p.357
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

SERMON

μ OFFERTORY p.192

OFFERING

μ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH p.193

μ COMMUNION LITURGY p.194

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Infant Priest" p.624

"The King Shall Come" p.348

"On Jordan's Bank" p.344

μ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE p.199
Nunc Dimittis

μ BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN p.338
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE