

The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *Rorate Coeli* (Advent 4)

Sunday, December 23, 2018 *through* Saturday, December 29, 2018

“John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah”

Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28

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 (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). Therefore, God 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 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 straps 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 that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:4-7).

INVOCATION (*make the sign of the holy cross and say*)

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting. Amen.

PSALM Psalm 111

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION *Article X: Of the Lord's Supper*

See Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, pp. 35, 153-155

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 23: Isaiah 43:25-44:20
Revelation 11:1-19

Monday, December 24: Isaiah 44:21-45:25 [48:1-22; Daniel 10:1-12:13]
Revelation 12:1-17

Tuesday, December 25: Isaiah 49:1-18
Merry Christmas! Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 26: Isaiah 49:22-51:16
Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday, December 27: Isaiah 51:17-52:12
Matthew 2:1-12

Friday, December 28: Isaiah 52:13-54:10
Matthew 2:13-23

Saturday, December 29: Isaiah 55:1-13
Luke 1:1-25

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

LSB 357:1,7

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

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYERS

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. Amen.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *1st Sunday after Christmas*

Isaiah 11:1-5

Psalm 89

Galatians 4:1-7

Luke 2:22-40

Hymn of the Day

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389