

New Hope Lutheran Church
December 18, 2022
Rorate Coeli
The Fourth Sunday in Advent



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**NEW HOPE IS A CONGREGATION GATHERED AROUND CHRIST
WE RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS IN WORD AND SACRAMENT;
WE PROCLAIM CHRIST CRUCIFIED AND RISEN;
WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

Wel come!

We're glad you've joined us as we gather to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We don't gather because we're perfect. We gather because we're sinners who desperately need the forgiveness Jesus won for us by His life, death, and resurrection. As you prepare for the Divine Service today, you are invited to pray the prayers inside the front cover of your hymnal. As you prepare for communion, please read the statement on page 8.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

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.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (*Congregation sings text in bold.*)

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.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A 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 mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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 A - men.

Sit

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—¹⁶just 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.’¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸I 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.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Congregation sings text in bold.*)

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

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

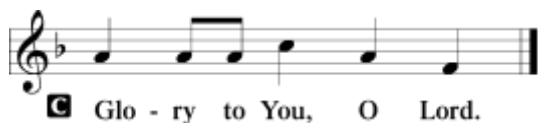


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

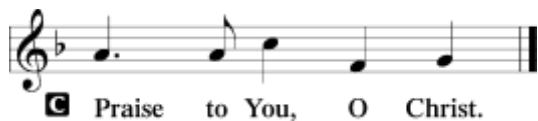


C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He 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.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

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

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Offering (*Offerings placed in the plates at the sanctuary doors will be carried forward during the singing of the offertory below. Plates will still be available near the sanctuary doors for those who wish to offer their gifts to the Lord following the service.*)

Offertory

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

God's Word states that in the Lord's Supper Jesus offers His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28), that partaking of this Supper together is a confession of our unity in faith (1 Cor. 10:16–17) and that the body and blood of Jesus can be received to one's harm (1 Cor. 11:27–32). Out of love for those who commune, New Hope Lutheran Church communes only those who

- 1. Have been taught and examined in the Christian faith,*
- 2. Confess their sins and trust in Christ for forgiveness,*
- 3. Have made a public confession of their agreement with us in this one Scriptural faith through membership in this congregation or another congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*
- 4. Have spoken with the pastor prior to the service regarding communion.*

If you are not a communicant member of New Hope or another LCMS congregation, you are invited to come up for a blessing; please cross your arms during the distribution.

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving


LSB 161

P Blessed are You...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165




C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -




pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

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 A - men.

Hymn to Depart: 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

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New Hope News and Notes



December 11, 2022 Stewardship

Attendance: Divine Service: 64; Bible Study/Sunday School: 21

Giving: General Fund: \$3,742 (Amount needed weekly: \$2,967)

Mortgage: \$157 (Remaining Debt: \$43,111)

Upcoming Events

Today, December 18 New Testament Class, Conf. Rm, 11:30 am

Tuesday, December 20 Preschool Christmas Program, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21 Advent Dinner, 6 pm
Advent Evening Prayer, 7 pm

Saturday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm**

Sunday, December 25 No Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
Christmas Day Divine Service, 10 am

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Birthdays: Karen Peck – Dec. 18; Jacob Graft – Dec. 21; Randy Siples – Dec. 23.

Military personnel: Denver Burkley (grandson of Joey Septer), Ethan Bearman (cousin of Randy Buuck).

Members and catechumens of our congregation: Marilyn Kimmel, Leona Meyer, Nancy Small, Keith Fuller, Marjorie Johnson, Don Milholland, Janet Fuller, John Hartup, Lee Ann Siples, Carol Schumacher, Chris Alfeld, Bryce Bowman, David Hoopengardner

Friends and family of the members of our congregation: Rev. Paul Doehrmann; Susan Gaines; Alice Jacobs; Makenzie Webb (granddaughter of Carol Schumacher); Robin Graham (friend of Randy and Diana Buuck); Don Hockemeyer (friend of Dara Phillips), Tom Schlemmer (uncle of Erik Schlemmer); Lynne Kuzeff (sister-in-law of Jeani Klaus); Charles Brown (brother of Sue Hansen); Cole Parker (friend of Tad Steckbeck); Angela and Joanna Daniel (Nieces of John and Karen Peck); Brian Shelton; Darlean Schell; Stanley High (son-in-law of Karan Shell); Sherry Bearman (cousin of Bonnie Brandewie); Linda Strait (friend of Diane Garrett); Karen Gerbers (friend of Jeani Klaus); Ann Thomas (friend of Karan Shell).

LISTEN TO BIBLE STUDY BY PHONE...Are you unable to access on-demand audio using a smart phone, personal computer or tablet? Thanks to Dial-a-Podcast you can now listen on your phone to Pastor Weedon's daily 15-minute Bible study, The Word of the Lord Endures Forever. Simply dial (618) 262-0078.

LIFE QUOTE “Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.” *Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* “Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.”

PATHS TO LUTHERANISM SERIES... You can listen to stories of guests who have come to Lutheranism from Islam, Mormonism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more. You'll find the series at issuesetc.org/pathstolutheranism.

EDUCATION & EDIFICATION... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's interview topics include: The Movie “Avatar,” Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE LUTHERAN WITNESS – Keep up with news, find answers to difficult questions, and learn more about what we believe, teach, and confess with a Lutheran Witness subscription. For only \$19 you can have a year subscription (11 issues) sent to your home or delivered to your church mailbox. Sign up on the clipboard next to the serving window in the gym. Large print edition also available.

THRIVENT CARDS NEEDED – If you own Thrivent products and have not used both of your \$250 Thrivent Action Cards, please consider using them to provide refreshments for the Dec. 20 Preschool Christmas Program. If you are able to contribute a Thrivent Action Card, please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

JAN. 8 PARTY - Mary Martha will host a New Year’s Party on Sunday, January 8 for all women of the congregation and their friends. Watch the bulletin for more information.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED to teach from 8:45 to 9:45 am on Sunday mornings in early January, March, April, and May. If you are able to teach on any Sundays in those months, please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

SUNDAYS AT OSSIAN HEALTH CARE - 1 PM – Every other Sunday, New Hope provides a service for the residents of Ossian Health Care. Please join us and visit these residents (some of whom are members of our congregation). Upcoming Sundays include Today, January 1, 15, and 29.

INVITE A FRIEND - Please see the hallway literature table for a card that you can send to a friend to invite them to our church for Christmas.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm;
Christmas Day Divine Service, 10 am; New Year's Eve Divine Service, 7 pm

POINSETTIAS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS— Please consider purchasing and donating a poinsettia for the Christmas season or donating funds to pay for instrumentalists or poinsettias on Christmas Eve. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate with a note on the envelope indicating whether it is for instrumentalists or poinsettias.

SERVING THE BODY OF CHRIST:

December 18

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Burfiend
Fieldworkers – Sem. Cody Schrepferman,
Sem. Kjetil Homdal

Organist: Amy Schueler
Elder: Terry Bauermeister
Altar Guild: Bonnie Brandewie,
Coffee Hour: Tim and Lynette Esslinger
Sound: Randy Buuck
Ushers: Terry and Nathan Bauermeister

December 25 - *Lord willing*

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Burfiend
Fieldworkers – Sem. Cody Schrepferman,
Sem. Kjetil Homdal

Organist: Amy Schueler
Elder: Tony Bauermeister
Altar Guild: Kami and Katie Brandewie
Coffee Hour:
Sound:
Ushers: Tony and Terry Bauermeister

From Martin Luther's Sermon for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

John 1:19-28

41. Therefore he also says: "In the midst of you standeth one whom ye know not." He means to say: "Do not permit your eyes to wander off into future ages. He of whom the prophets speak has been among you in the Jewish nation for well nigh thirty years. Take care and do not miss Him. You do not know Him, therefore I have come to point Him out to you." The words, "In the midst of you standeth one," are spoken after the manner of the Scriptures, which say, A prophet will arise or stand up. Thus Math. 24,24, "There shall arise false prophets." In Duet. 18,15, God says, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet." John now wishes to show that this "raising up, arising, standing," etc. was fulfilled in Christ, Who was already standing among them, as God had prophesied; the people however knew Him not.

42. This then is the other office of John and of every preacher of the Gospel, not alone to make all the world sinners, as we have heard above (§ 24ff.); but also to give comfort and show how we may get rid of our sins; this he does in pointing to Him Who is to come.

The Sundays in Advent

“Advent is a season of prayer preparation, of making ready for the coming of our King. As He came in Prophecy, so also He has indeed come already in the Flesh. He comes now in His Means of Grace, given us to keep and preserve us steadfast in faith until His Coming in Glory.

*“Advent begins with the account of the Triumphal Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (**Ad Te Levavi**, Matthew 21:1-9), marking our entrance into a new year of God’s Grace. The King comes! As the budding fig tree alerts all to the coming summer, so do we see the signs of the imminent coming of our Lord (**Populus Zion**, Luke 21:25-33). John the Baptizer sees the signs even through prison bars as the blind see and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the Gospel preached to them, bringing hope in the midst of penitent preparation (**Gaudete**, Matthew 11:2-10), fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. And St. John, the Forerunner, who makes straight the Way of the Lord as he calls the people to repentance, promises One who is preferred before him will come after him, One who will come soon (**Rorate Coeli**, John 1:19-28). Repent, for the King comes!”*

(Reflection above provided by Zion Lutheran, Detroit, MI)

The titles for each Sunday in Advent are from the first words of the Latin Introit for that Sunday. In the church, these Sundays have come to be referred to by the first words of their Latin Introit, just as we refer to the canticles (Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Agnus Dei, Nunc Dimittis) by the first words of their Latin text. “Ad Te Levavi” means “to You I have lifted up.” “Populus Zion” means “people of Zion.” “Gaudete” means “rejoice.” “Rorate Coeli” means “drop down, ye heavens.”

The color for the Advent season is purple, which reminds us of our need to confess our sin and receive forgiveness. This season of repentance helps us prepare for the celebration of our Lord’s incarnation at Christmas (Source: Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation, (St. Louis: Concordia, 2017), 377).