

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Rorate Coeli)

December 18, 2022

Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

The season of Advent reminds us that we as individuals are part of the big picture of salvation planned by our God as we reflect on the coming of Christ to earth for us. We are called to be resolute, as in the words of the hymn “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”—determined and assured in Christ. We celebrate the season resolutely, sure that in Christ, God has done all that is necessary to keep us in His salvation picture for time and for eternity!

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
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Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

- P** 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.
- C** **The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.**
- P** 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,
- C** **which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.**
- P** 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.
- C** **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.**
- P** 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

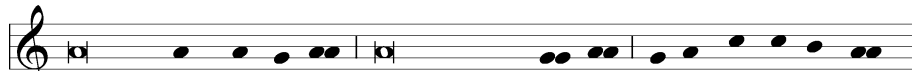
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



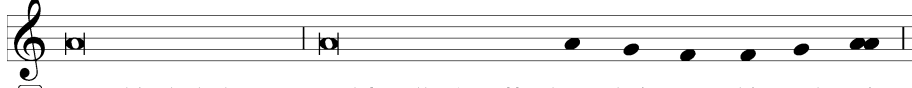
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



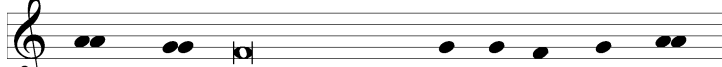
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

R The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 18.

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.’”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

R The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. 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.

P 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.

Sit

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



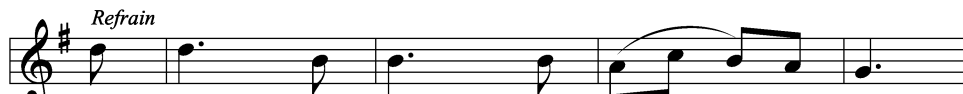
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Refrain

7 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. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Is this it?"

Stand

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our congregation, which has rejoiced at the first advent of Christ in the flesh, in His continual advent among us in His Word and Sacrament, and which awaits His second advent for judgment at the Last Day, that God would keep us in this Word and faith unto the end, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all the faithful, that they may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word, singing His praises, and receiving His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's institution of marriage between one man and one woman, established even before Adam and Eve's fall into sin, that God would preserve it against all attack; and that He would bless the Church with many children and families that reflect the order of His creation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the nations of the world, that in every place the people who delight in war would be scattered and peace be established; and that the hungry may be fed with good things, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all women with child and all mothers with infant children, that God would grant them increasing happiness in their blessings [*especially* _____]; for the lonely, the depressed and the despairing; for the sick, the anxious and the dying [*especially* _____]; and for those who mourn [*the death of* _____], that they would take comfort in the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who receive the body and blood of Christ this day, that they may have the peace that surpasses understanding, the gladness that no man can take from them and the hope that does not fade away, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide sts. 1–3

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



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.

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

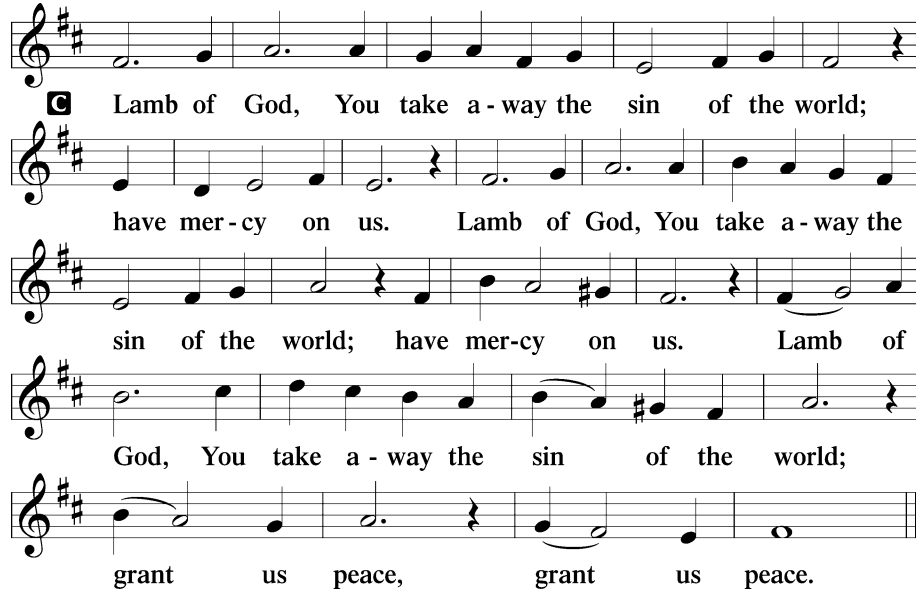
LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to
door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.
He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His
in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808-58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645-1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
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820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we
who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



mee - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite
pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as
flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So
through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487-1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Concentus novi, 1540, Augsburg
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-
 joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-
 giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

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.

346 When All the World Was Cursed

1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,
 Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,
 With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way
 And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Exodus at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am**. They are studying the Book of Deuteronomy.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 8 at 8am**.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at **6pm** and **Christmas Day Divine Service** is at **10am**. There will be no Sunday School that day.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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