

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church



*Rorate Coeli*  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
23 December 2012



*James Tissot (1836–1902), Saint Jean-Baptiste et les pharisiens*

**I am the voice of one  
crying out in the wilderness**

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### **A note to visitors**

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

### **The Offering**

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

### **Children in the Service**

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of

God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

### **Holy Communion**

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

**Thank you for honouring our beliefs.**

### ***A note on the service:***

*Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.*

*The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.*

*It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.*

### ***Explanation of Symbols:***

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

**203 Confession and Absolution****Introit** (Ps. 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isa. 45:8)

**A** Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain  
down | righteousness;

**C** let the earth | open,  
that salvation and righteousness | may  
bear fruit.

❖ *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

**204 Kyrie****205 Salutation and 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.

**205 The Readings*****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. 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).

**Old Testament Reading—Deuteronomy 18:15–19**

<sup>15</sup> 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— <sup>16</sup> 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.’ <sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’

**C** 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.

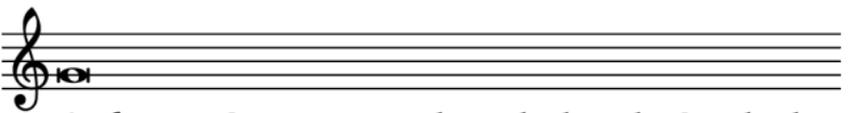
### Epistle Reading—Philippians 4:4–7

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

### Alleluia and Verse (Ps. 40: 17)



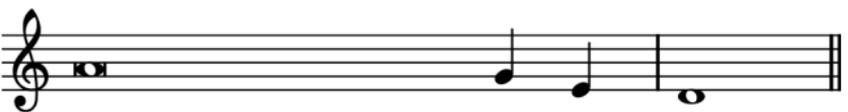
**C** Al - le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu-ia.



As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes



thought for me.\* You are my help and my



deliverer; do not delay, O my God!



Al - le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu-ia.

### 206 Gospel Reading—John 1:19–28

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

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

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

<sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptising, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the

Prophet?”<sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptise with water, but among you stands one you do not know,<sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”<sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptising.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ

*206 The Nicene Creed*

*357 Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**Sermon**

*Prayer of the Church*

**Offering**

*208 The Service of the Sacrament*

*212 Blessing*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### **Members**

Ron, Forbes, Dot, Frank

### **Family of members**

Lucy, Diana (old age); Megan (pregnancy); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (cancer); Jean (multiple fractures)

### **Friends of members**

Ilse Kelly (old age); Paul (homeless); Marie & family (distress); Brian & Kay (distress); Mike (health); Kayleigh & newborn son (health); Cynthia (health); Claire and Phil (health); Pauline (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Dave (mental illness); Claire (leukemia); Brian, Jan & family (cancer); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Graham (tumour); Ronnie (cancer); Lisa & children (cancer); Steve (cancer); Carol (cancer); Baby Thomas (operation); Christine (recovering from operation); Karina and family of †Alexey

### **ELCE**

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Pastor Edge; European Lutheran Churches & the Lutheran Mission in Portugal; Boor family (St. Andrew's)

### **The Church of God**

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Holy Trinity CofE

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**  
**LARGE CATECHISM**  
**PART IV: BAPTISM**

Lastly, we must also know what Baptism signifies and why God has ordained just this outward sign and ceremony for the Sacrament by which we are first received into the Christian Church. The act or ceremony is this: we are sunk under the water, which passes over us, and afterwards are drawn out again. These two parts, (a) to be sunk under the water and (b) drawn out again, signify Baptism's power and work. It is nothing other than putting to death the old Adam and affecting the new man's resurrection after that. Both of these things must take place in us all our lives. So a truly Christian life is nothing other than a daily Baptism, once begun and ever to be continued. For this must be done without ceasing, that we always keep purging away whatever belongs to the old Adam. Then what belongs to the new man may come forth. But what is the old man? It is what is born in human beings from Adam: anger, hate, envy, unchastity, stinginess, laziness, arrogance—yes, unbelief. The old man is infected with all vices and has by nature nothing good in him. Now, when we have come into Christ's kingdom, these things must daily decrease. ...

This is Baptism's true use among Christians, as signified by baptising with water. Therefore, where this is not done, the old man is left unbridled. He continually becomes stronger. That is not using Baptism, but working against Baptism. ...

Therefore, the old man goes unrestrained in his nature if he is not stopped and suppressed by Baptism's power. On the other hand, where people have become Christians, the old man daily decreases until he finally perishes. That is truly being buried in Baptism and daily coming forth again. ...

Here you see that Baptism, both in its power and meaning, includes also the third Sacrament, which has been called repentance. It is really nothing other than Baptism. What else is repentance but a serious attack on the old man < that his lusts be restrained, > and an entering into a new life? Therefore, if you live in repentance, you walk in Baptism. For Baptism not only illustrates such a new life, but also produces, begins, and exercises it. For in Baptism are given grace, the Spirit, and power to suppress the old man, so that the new man may come forth and become strong.

paragraphs 64–76

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### The Week Ahead

Today	11.15am	Children's Carol Service
	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Lutheran Mission
24 Dec	11pm	Midnight Mass (Scout Hall)
25 Dec	10am	Christmas Morning Divine Service (Scout Hall)
30 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)

### Further ahead

3 Jan	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery at The Hub
6 Jan	10.30am	Divine Service—Epiphany (Scout Hall)
	4.30pm	Confirmation Service at Brighton Lutheran Mission
10 Jan	10.30am	Bible study (The Parsonage)

### **Next Week's Readings:**

**Midnight Mass:** *Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20*

**Christmas Day:** *Exodus 20:17-21, 34-38; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14*

**First Sunday after Christmas:** *Isaiah 11:1-5; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:33-40*

### **Daily Readings:**

Sun: *Isaiah 43:25-44:20 Revelation 11:1-19 Large Catechism I: 199-210*

Mon: *Is 44:21-45:13, 20-25 Rev 12:1-17 LC I: 211-221*

Tue: *Is 49:1-18 Matthew 1:1-17 LC I: 222-233*

Wed: *Is 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16 Matt 1:18-25 LC I: 234-244*

Thu: *Is 51:17-52:12 Matt 2:1-12 LC I: 245-253*

Fri: *Is 52:13-54:10 Matt 2:13-23 LC I: 254-262*

Sat: *Is 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25 LC I: 263-275*

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone who came along to sing carols at the old people's homes on Kiln Road in the last two weeks. The residents and staff appreciated it very much indeed!

Thank you also to all who supported yesterday's Finnish carol service. Again, it was much appreciated by those who attended.