

[We rise]  
**The Prayer of the Church**  
**The Our Father** (inside back cover of Service Book)  
"God Bless Our Native Land" #965

**The Service of the Sacrament** p. 194  
[Please review our Communion Policy on  
Page 1 of this Service Guide]

[We are seated]  
Hymn "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" #624  
[We rise] "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #805

**The Nunc Dimittis** p. 199  
**Thanksgiving,** p. 200  
**Salutation, Benedicamus,** p. 201  
**Benediction** p. 202  
[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Final Hymn]  
Final Hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come" #332

### RORATE COELI—THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mt. 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 (Lk 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 (Jn 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).

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SHEPHERD OF THE SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers -- Thursday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord -- Friday, Dec. 25, 9:00 a.m.

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# A Guide To The Divine Service

9:00 A.M.

20 December 2009



*Rorate caeli, desuper*  
Shower, O heavens, from above  
[The Fourth Sunday of Advent]  
"Expectation Sunday"

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church  
6755 Earl Drive, Suite #100  
Colorado Springs CO 80918

*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical  
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --  
Where the Lutheran Reformation lives!*

*"... Possessing liturgical life without liturgical bondage ..."*  
THE CONSERVATIVE REFORMATION AND ITS THEOLOGY, p. 159  
Rev. Dr. Charles P. Krauth, 1871

MEMBER: THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

**NOTE ON PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER**

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout history, "closed communion" is observed here, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who:

- (a) are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- (b) have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scriptures as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith and practice, and now embrace this same Lutheran faith in the same way that it is believed, taught, confessed, and practiced in this congregation;
- (c) believe that in this Sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services who are able to affirm these facts should speak to our pastor or the elder on duty before receiving the Sacrament. To other guests with us today, we express to you our sincere interest, friendship, and concern, and we assure you that it is for the spiritual welfare of all that we practice "closed communion," even as we continue to work toward the day in which all divisions over doctrine and practice within Christ's Church will be resolved. Those desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with one of our pastors.

**[We rise and face the Processional Cross]**

**Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 185**

Entr. Hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #803

**The Service of the Word begins with the Introit**



*Antiphon:* Drop down, ye heavens, / from a- / bove, \* and let the skies / pour down / righteous - / ness ; || Let the / earth\_ / open, \* and / bring\_ / forth sal- / vation. (Isaiah 45.8a; RSV)

**The heavens declare the / glory of / God, \* and the / firma- ment / showeth His / handiwork. || Their voice is gone out through- / out the / earth, \* and their / words to the / end of the / world.**

In them He has set a / tent for the / sun, \* which comes forth like a / Bridegroom / leaving His / chamber , || and / like a strong / man, \* it / runs its / course with / joy.

**Drop down, ye heavens, / from a- / bove, \* and let the skies / pour down / righteous - / ness ; || Let the / earth\_ / open, \* and / bring\_ / forth sal- / vation.**

**The Gloria Patri, The Kyrie p. 186**  
**The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted in Advent**  
**Salutation, Collect p. 189**

**Collect for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:** Stir up Thy power, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and come among us, that by Thy grace whatever is hindered by our sins may yet be accomplished speedily through Thy mercy and satisfaction; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen!**

**Collect for the Season of Advent:** Almighty God, heavenly Father, bestow on us Thy grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day when He will come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may then rise to the life immortal; through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen!**  
[We are seated]

The Old Testament of the Day . . . . . Deuteronomy 18.15-19  
[God will raise up a Prophet]  
This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

**Responsorial Hymn:**  
**"A Great and Mighty Wonder" #383**

Epistle of the Day . . . . . Philipians 4.4-7  
[Rejoice!]  
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise] **The Holy Gospel of the Day**  
**The Gradual and Nine-fold Alleluia**  
The Lord is nigh unto them that / call up- on / Him \*  
**To all that / call up- on / Him in / truth. ||**  
My mouth shall speak the / praise of the / Lord: \*  
**And let all flesh / bless His / holy / name.**  
Thou art my Help and my Deliverer: Alleluia! / Alle- / luia!\*  
**Make no tarrying, O my God: / Alle- / lu\_ - / ia!**  
Stir up, O Lord: Alleluia! / Alle - / luia!  
**Thy power and come to help us: / Alle - / lu\_ / ia!**

**The Triple Alleluia p. 190**

**The Holy Gospel**  
**Announcement of the Holy Gospel**  
Holy Gospel of the Day John 1.19-28  
[John announces the arrival of the Messiah!]  
Responses to the Holy Gospel p. 190-191

**The Nicene Creed p. 191**

[We are seated]

Chief Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #357  
Sermon

[We rise]  
**The Offertory "Create in Me" p. 192**

[We are seated]

**The offering is received**  
*God richly bless you for your support of His work among us!*