

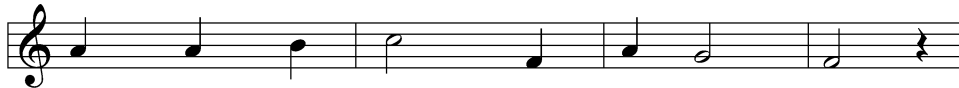
# Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

## 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.  
Tune: Rheinfeilssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg  
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## Service of the Word

### Introit

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

Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousnes;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousnes 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.

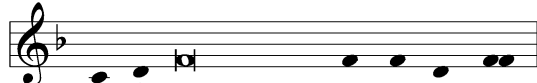
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

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

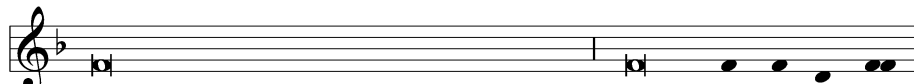
LSB 152



**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.



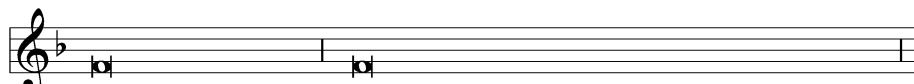
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



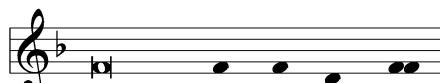
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



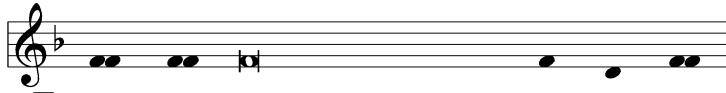
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious 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*

<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.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Psalms 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*

<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.

- 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.

<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 baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize 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 baptizing.

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



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### 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.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.  
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### Sermon

*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**

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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