

FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words from the following Scripture verses.

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. — Psalm 145:18, 21

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 _____. — Isaiah 45:8a

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. — Deuteronomy 18:18

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of _____ wisdom _____; all those who practice it

have a good _____ understanding _____. His praise endures forever! — Psalm 111:10

And the _____ peace _____ of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard

your _____ hearts _____ and your _____ minds _____ in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:7

And Elizabeth was filled with the _____ Holy Spirit _____, and she exclaimed

with a loud cry, “_____ Blessed _____ are you among women, and blessed is the

_____ fruit _____ of your womb! — Luke 1:41b-42



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Lambs at Pasture™

Rorate Coeli — The Fourth Sunday in Advent

2017

INTROIT

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 glory 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.

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, 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.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 40:17b

Alleluia. You are my help an my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #357 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Explanation (pages 23–25)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

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. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

The word “advent” is derived from the Latin words, *advenire* (to come to) and *adventus* (an arrival). That we might be prepared to celebrate the blessed Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Lord, the Church has set aside the season of Advent as a time to reflect and meditate upon the coming of our Lord Jesus in the Flesh, through His Word and Sacraments, and on the Last Day. Advent is also a time of preparation for Christ’s coming through repentance and faith.

The Forth Sunday in Advent is also known as *Rorate Coeli*, which, in Latin, means: “Drop down heavens” (The ESV translates as “Shower, O heavens”). This is the opening phrase of the Introit appointed for the Church’s worship today. — Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. (Isaiah 45:8 KJV).

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 111

Describe some of the characteristics of the Lord mentioned in this lesson.

Verse 3: Full of splendor, majestic, and righteous

Verse 4: Wondrous, gracious, and merciful

Verse 5: Provider

Verse 6: All-powerful (omnipotent)

Verse 7: Faithful, just, and trustworthy

Verse 8: Faithful and upright

Verse 9: Holy and awesome

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 24 (page 61)

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Who is the prophet Moses is referring to in this passage?

Christ Jesus

What does verse 18 mean?

A true prophet of the Lord speaks only God’s Word.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 125 (pages 127-130)

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read John 1:19-28

What did the Priests and Levites from Jerusalem ask John the Baptist? And, how did he answer them?

Verses 19-20: Who are you? — I am not the Christ.

Verse 21: Are you the Prophet? — No.

Verses 22-23: Who are you? What do you say about yourself? — I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.

Verses 24-27: Why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, not Elijah, nor the Prophet? — I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

Luke 1:39-56

What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth? (verses 41-45)

The baby in Elizabeth’s womb (John the Baptist) leaped for joy.

Who is Mary? (verse 43)

Mary is the mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Where in the Evening Prayer Service is the Magnificat or Song of Mary sung? (LSB 243-252)

The Magnificat is sung following the sermon and before the offering.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 298 (pages 240-241)

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Philippians 4:4-7

What does this lesson mean?

Let one’s gentleness be known to all; be anxious for nothing; pray, praise, and give thanks at all times; meditate upon and act in accordance with: truth, honor, justice, purity, virtue, praiseworthiness.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 197 (page 176)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Explanation and *Rorate Coeli*?

John the Baptist baptized with water and taught repentance. The Catechism teaches us: “Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.” (page 23) So too, the life of the baptized is one of daily contrition and repentance. (page 25)