



Sunday, December 8, 2024

Baptism & Confirmation of Adam Roulston

Service Theme

**A REAL CHRISTMAS IS ROOTED IN
REPENTANCE**

The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to really be ready for Christmas: only repentance. You see, repentance is the opposite of work. It is the candid and honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by Christ. At this frenetic time of year, the call to repent is not another demand to do something more. It is gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ's work. Rooted in that repentant rest, we can fully enjoy a real Christmas.

Order of Service

GATHERING RITE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

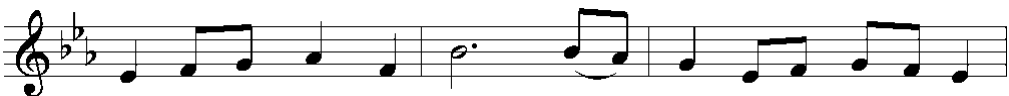
C: Amen.

308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 308



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King.



The — val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like the flow'rs of the field they — per - ish; like
 He shall feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and — pomp of
 lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way.
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.

Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988

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First Lesson
Malachi 3:1–7b (EHV)

*Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it,
the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble
repentance.*

¹Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

⁵I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

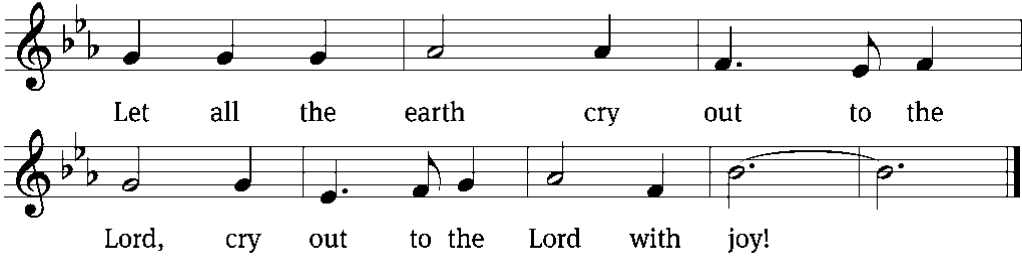
⁶Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. ⁷Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Armies.

66A Let All the Earth Cry Out to the Lord

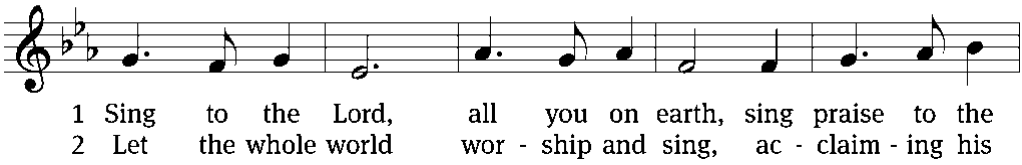
Psalm 66A

Refrain

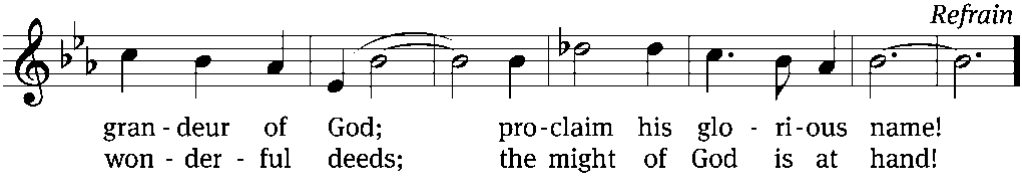


Let all the earth cry out to the
Lord, cry out to the Lord with joy!

Verses



1 Sing to the Lord, all you on earth, sing praise to the
2 Let the whole world wor - ship and sing, ac - claim - ing his



Refrain
gran - deur of God; pro - claim his glo - ri - ous name!
won - der - ful deeds; the might of God is at hand!

Verse



3 Lis - ten now, all you who trust in the Lord,
our God has done great things for us,



Refrain
an - swered our prayers with his kind - ness.

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Tune: Steven C. Warner
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Second Lesson
Philippians 1:3–11 (EHV)

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6)



Gospel
Luke 3:1–6 (EHV)

John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.
⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

⁶And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

M: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

310 Arise, O Christian People

CW 310



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart. Lord Je - sus: turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
 best; cast out what would of - fend him, this
 high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
 side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.
 prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.
 Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text & Theme

Luke 3:1-6... **How to prepare for Christ's coming.**

1) Tune out the world.

2) Tune into God's Word and Sacraments for repentance.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION OF ADAM ROULSTON

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Adam Roulston, in obedience to the Lord’s command, you are presenting yourself for baptism in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You will soon have the privilege of receiving the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Do you believe that you were born in sin and therefore eternally lost?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

A: Yes,
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: Do you believe that this Triune God planned and carried out your salvation?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe that God grants you the forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

A: I do.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

A: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

A: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

A: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

A: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you desire to be baptized?

A: Yes, I do.

(Continue at the Baptismal Font)

M: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (+) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Adam Akkor Roulston, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven.

Confirmation Verse

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork...Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”
(Psalm 19:1, 14 NKJV)*

May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

M: Let us pray:

Almighty God, in Baptism you made *Adam* a member of the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed *him* by his blood, buried *him* with Jesus in his death, and gave *him* a new life in his resurrection. Renew *him* by the Holy Spirit, which you have poured out on *him* generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let *him* live out *his* life as an heir of eternal life. Lead *him* to serve your Church in holiness and righteousness all *his* days. Keep *him* in fellowship with all who wait for the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution
(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, “I do so promise!”

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God’s Word says, *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”* (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.



C: A - men.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Distribution

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.

Thanksgiving

M: We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer for Advent

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John:
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

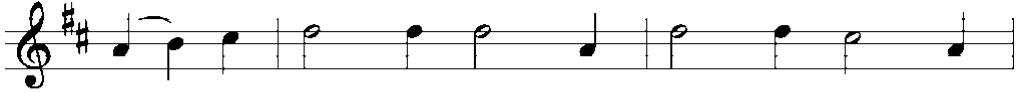
C: Amen.

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749
 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Anyone wishing to help beautify the Altar for Christmas, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice (traditionally poinsettias) to the church by the end of worship on Sunday, December 22nd. You are welcomed to take your plants home after the Christmas Eve/Day Worship service or, if you wish, you may leave them at church to continue to beautify the altar for upcoming worship services.

Church Cleaners

December 15 – Luke // December 22 – Timothy

Christmas Schedule
Christmas Eve 7 PM
Christmas Day 11 AM

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (8) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am Fellowship
3:00 pm Worship with Communion in Poltimore
- We (11) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (12) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (13) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (15) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Fellowship
12:00 pm Voters' Meeting
- We (18) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (19) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (20) 4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (22) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am Fellowship



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