

¶ *The fourth sonday [in Advent]\*.*

*Verba mea auribus.* Psalm v.

PONDER my woordes, O Lorde : considre my meditacion.

O herken thou unto the voyce of my calling, my kyng, and my God : for unto thee wyl I make my prayer.

My voyce shalt thou heare betymes, o Lorde : early in the morning will I directe my prayer unto thee, and will looke up.

For thou art the God that hath no pleasure in wickednes : neither shall anye evill dwell with the.

Suche as be foolishe shalle not stande in thy sight : for thou hatest all them that worke vanitie.

Thou shalt destroy them that speake leasing [=lies] : the Lord will abhorre both the bloud-thirstie and deceptfull man.

But as for me, I will come into thy house, even upon the multitude of thy mercy : and in thy feare I wyl wurship towarde thy holy temple.

Leade me (o Lorde) in thy righteousnes, because of myne enemyes : make thy waye playne before my face.

For there is no faythfulnes in his mouthe : their inwarde partes are very wickednes.

Their throte is an open sepulchre : they flatter with their tongue.

Destroy thou them, O God; let them peryshe through their owne imaginacions : cast them out in the multitude of their ungodlines; for they have rebelled agaynst thee.

And let all them that put their trust in thee rejoyce : they shall

ever be gevyng of thankes, because thou defendest them; they that love thy name shalbe joyfull in thee.

For thou, Lord, wilt geve thy blessing unto the righteous and with thy favorable kyndnes wylt thou defende him as his shelde.

Glory be to the father, and to the sonne, &c.

As it was in the begynnyng, is now, and ever &c.

*The Gospell. John i.*

THIS is recorde of John, when the Jewes sent priestes and Levites from Jerusalem to aske him; what art thou? and he confessed, and denied not, and sayd playnly: I am not Christ. And they asked him, what then? art thou Helyas [Elijah]? and he sayeth: I am not. Art thou that Prophete? and he aunswered, no. Then sayed they unto him; what art thou? that we may geve an aunswer unto them that sent us? what sayest thou of thy selfe? he said: I am the voyce of a cryer in the wildernes, make straight the way of the lorde, as said the prophete Esai [Isaiah]. And they whiche were sente were of the Phariseis, and they asked hym, and sayde unto hym, why baptisest thou then, if thou be not Christe, nor Helyas [Elijah], neither that prophet? John aunswered them, saying: I baptise with water: but there standeth one among you, whome ye know not: he it is which though he came after me, was before me, whose shooe-latchet, I am not woorthie to unlooce. These thinges were doen at Bethabara [Bethany] beyond Jordane, where John did baptise.