

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five

+ GATHERING +

The Assembly is invited to gather in quiet meditation.

ACCLAMATION

Timothy Olsen

Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

OPENING PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night

Rebecca te Velde

We stand.

ACCLAMATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.

GATHERING HYMN 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

+ WORD+

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (Stanza 3) REJOICE, REJOICE

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion, then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with ¹ shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great ¹ things for them."

³The LORD has done great ¹ things for us, and we are ¹ glad indeed.

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- ¹ ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- ¹ ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verse sung by choir.



GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

The holy gospel according to Saint John.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.



We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Wollner

SERMON

Pastor Wollner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1-4)

VENI, EMMANUEL

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

In faithfulness, we wait. For the church near and far. For disciples of all nations. For those who long to share and those who long to receive the Gospel. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

In faithfulness, we wait. For the waters that cleanse the earth. For the trees that provide a place of protection. For creation, small and large. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

In faithfulness, we wait. For peace in chaos. For promise in despair. For justice when there feels like there is none. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

In faithfulness, we wait. For those who thirst and hunger. For those who go without. For those who plead for healing and relationship. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

In faithfulness, we wait. For bodies that are in pain. For spirits that are tired. For those who suffer and grow weary. We especially pray for: Rose Sydeman, Jon Vickers, Deana Vickers, Hank Farrar, Terri Cota, Violet Fowler, Paul Martin, Dot Gantt, Brooks Forsell, Melanie Denny and for all of those we lift up on our lips and in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

In faithfulness, we wait. For the faithful witness of those who have entered life eternal and for their loved ones who remain. We especially remember: Jeanie Rudisill, Jack Horn, Donnie Eubanks, Pastor Tim Glenham, Abner Harrington and Charles Talton. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

Please be considerate of those who may be reluctant to shake hands in this flu season.

We sit

+ MEAL+

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:30) As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

Carl Schalk

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.

O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,

We long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,

May we your healing light release, living peace, unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,

That through us stream your holiness,

Bright and blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11:00) E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might savéd be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

Rejoice on earth ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ shall be their All!

We stand.

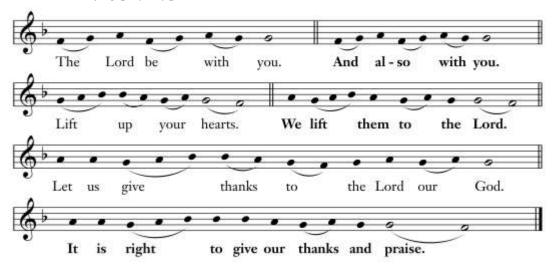
OFFERTORY HYMN



Let us pray.

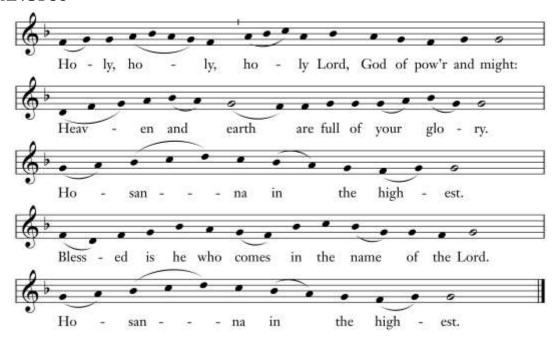
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



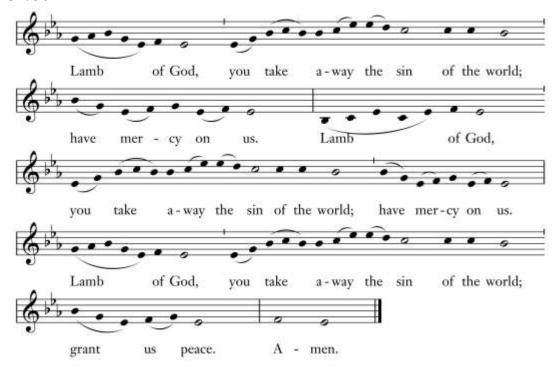
The presiding minister lifts the bread and cup and says

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

The assembly responds

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI



We sit.

COMMUNION

Today we will be communing by intinction. Receive the bread and dip it in the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on the organ side of the church. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who have never communed and would like to are encouraged to talk to a pastor. All who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMN 737 He Comes to Us as One Unknown

REPTON

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

+ SENDING +

BLESSING



The assembly faces the cross as it leaves the sanctuary, following the cross as we follow Jesus into the world. All remain facing the cross for the dismissal.

SENDING HYMN 248 People, Look East

BESANÇON

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Carillon on "People, Look East"

Rebecca te Velde

Soli Deo Gloria

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Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Jenna Collins (Age 11)

Acolytes

8:30 Anna Frucht and Julia Grossnickle

11:00 Ryan Hicks and Katie Kirkeeng

Crucifers

8:30 Kate Frucht

11:00 Harrison Hickman

Offering Bearer

Luke Wollner

Liturgists

8:30 Bruce Tippette

11:00 Nanette Shutt

Lay Readers

8:30 Charlie Schoderbek

11:00 Martha Foreman

Communion Assistants

8:30 John Bandle and Dick DiBlasio

11:00 Lisa Crozier and Vera Robinson

Nursery

8:30 Susan Peatross

SS Scott Walkush

11:00 Anna Rubino-Schneider

Ushers

8:30 Chris Almerini, Bobby Baynes,

Alex Paschold and Jon Southern

11:00 Clarence Dixon, Carrol Epting,

Kevin Lynch and Phil Martin

Visitors Welcoming Table & Greeters 8:30 Mary Newman

11:00 Michele DeBaugh

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Richard Morrison

Oblation Bearers

8:30 Dave and Deb Grossnickle

11:00 Don Armitage and Colleen Crozier

Assisting Ministers

8:30 Alex Ballard

11:00 Barbara Gerhard

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Wollner

Providing Service Next Sunday

Bulletin Cover Artist

Joe Nicastro

Acolytes

TBD and TBD

Crucifer

Daniel Nolting

Lay Reader

David Sitler

Communion Assistants

Maria Fortin and Vicky Strandhoy

Nursery

Jill Fowler

Usher

Clarence Dixon, Carrol Epting,

Kevin Lynch and Phil Martin

Visitors Welcoming Table & Greeters

Jill Fowler and Keith Kooken

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Gwen Nolting

Oblation Bearer

Kyle and Leigh Anna Voigt

Assisting Minister

Don Armitage

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Wollner

Announcements

WELCOME all who enter the Lord's house this day! We invite you to fill out the Friendship Register found on each pew. If you are visiting Augsburg, please stop by the Visitor Welcoming Table after today's service to pick up a welcome package. The visitor's table is located at the bottom of the ramp leading to the lobby.

Our worship begins with an acclamation or a brief piece sung by the choir which introduces the Gospel message or another theme of the day. This is a time to quietly begin our worship in ways that are meaningful to us, through listening, prayer, meditation on the scriptures to be read, the hymns or anthems to be sung, the art and paragraph on the cover of the bulletin, or to simply still our minds and spirits in preparation for an hour that is different from the hectic life outside the doors of our sanctuary.

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God in honor of the Staff at Augsburg Lutheran Church by Susan Peatross.

The bulletins today are given to the glory of God in honor of Violet Fowler on her 93rd birthday, which was December 15 by her children, Jeff Fowler and Beverly Mitchell.

Special Thanks from Lewis Armour: Lewis would like to thank the Augsburg family for the cards and prayers he has received.

Our Homebound Member is Mrs. Marylynn Sloop, 118 North Harbor Watch Drive, Statesville, NC 28677. Please send Marylynn a note.



Compline (Night Prayer) dates back to the 4th century monastic traditions of daily prayer and praise. Serving as the final service of the day, it is a sung service primarily of chant. On the evenings of the first three Sundays of Advent (December 3, 10, & 17) at 8:30 P.M. in the sanctuary, a Compline Choir will lead this quiet contemplative service offering a calm, quiet (often silent) time of respite from the hectic pace of our world. Each service will be preceded by a brief recital at 8:00 P.M. Please extend an invitation to your neighbors and friends, and come experience the hope and anticipation of Advent through this candlelit service. Tonight's recitalists are Augsburg disciples, Laura Dangerfield Stevens (flute) and Suzy Perkins (violin).

Save the date! College Taco Party on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 P.M. at the Brath's residence: 5104 River Chase Ridge Road, Winston Salem, NC. Tacos and beverages will be provided. Inquirers' Class: Pastor Wollner will be conducting a series of classes for prospective new Augsburg disciples next month -- January 14, 21, and 28, 2018 between services. We will receive new members on February 4. Please see Pastor if you are interested in participating.

The Efird L. and Maria F. Hine Fund committee will meet for its Winter Quarter meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. All requests for financial grants should be directed to The Hine Fund and should be in the church office no later than 12 noon on Friday, January 12. Agendas will be ready for members to pick up in the Work Room on Sunday, January 14. Please call or email the Hine Fund secretary if you are unable to attend the meeting. The general purpose and intent of the Hine Fund is to "put into effect a ministry of Christian mercy and concern in meeting human needs as the Church thinks Jesus Christ Himself would have them met."

AUGSBURG BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Reformers Reading Romans is a Sunday morning Bible Study, 10:00-10:30 A.M., Family Life Center, led by Pr. Paul. No experience necessary!

Pastor Paul's Reformation Biblical/Historical Study is held Monday mornings at 10:45 A.M. in the Sid Sowers Classroom. Each session includes key words, Bible connections, Luther's stance, and generous opportunities for discussion.

Continue in My Word is an Adult Weekly Bible Study held Monday evenings at 6:00 P.M. in the Youth Area. Bring your Bible. We are studying Jeremiah.

7:18 Youth Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings at various locations. Please contact Emily Norris for more information or if you have questions.

Readings for next week: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

Worship attendance for services last week: 102 at 8:30; 152 at 11:00; 25 visitors.

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori Carter, Pastoral Care Associate

Emily Norris, Dir. of Student & Social Ministries, Seminarian

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Children's Ministries Bruce Tippette, Youth Music and Handbell Director Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator Bruce Xu, Music Intern

Michaelene Lineberry, Parish Secretary

Reggie Jackson, Sexton

Stephanie Hickman, Sexton

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Calendar for December 17 – December 25

17 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30a Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

9:45a Fellowship Breakfast (Family Life Center)

10:00a Children's Christmas Program (Family Life Center)

11:00a Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

3:30p Youth Group

4:00p Jubilate Choir (Choir Room)

4:45p Lobchor (Choir Room)

8:00p Pre-Compline Recital (Sanctuary)

8:30p Compline (Sanctuary)

18 Monday

10:30a Pastor Paul's Study (Sid Sowers Classroom)

6:00p Continue in My Word (Youth Area)

6:00p Adult Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)

6:30p Youth Ministry Team Meeting (Quiet Pint)

19 Tuesday

7:00p College Christmas Party (Brath Residence)

20 Wednesday

6:30a Bagels! High School Youth (Bagel Station)

7:00p Advent Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

7:30p Emotions Anonymous (Lounge)

21 Thursday

7:30p Men's Fellowship Breakfast (Youth Area)

12:00p Staff Christmas Luncheon (Family Life Center) 6:15p Adult Choir I

6:15p Adult Choir I (Choir Room)

24 Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

10:30a Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

5:00p Christmas Eve Children's Service (Sanctuary)

7:30p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

11:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

25 Christmas Day

10:30a Festival Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)