

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:3-5

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

*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

The paraments are blue today, and will be for the four Sundays of Advent. The color suggests hope.

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Assembly is invited to gather in quiet meditation.

ACCLAMATION

Text: Michael Morgan

Music: William Stevens

Lend hope, O God, to our despair; help us, the weak, to see
that by your tender loving care the grief of life will flee;
that in distress your arm is there to lift and set us free.

OPENING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on FREU DICH SEHR

J.G. Walther

We stand.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
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 254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

JEFFERSON



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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.

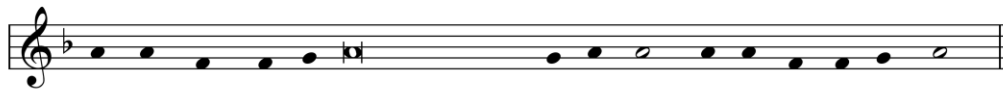
KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



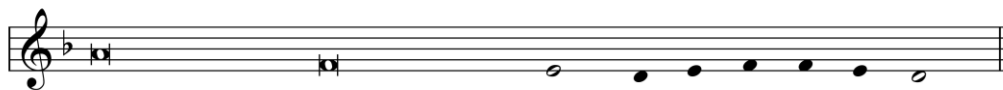
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



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.



Lord have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

WELCOME

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by the Assembly.



Sung by the choir.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

All repeat alleluia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Wollner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 266 All Earth Is Hopeful

TODA LA TIERRA



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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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

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Each portion of the prayers conclude:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

We sit.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

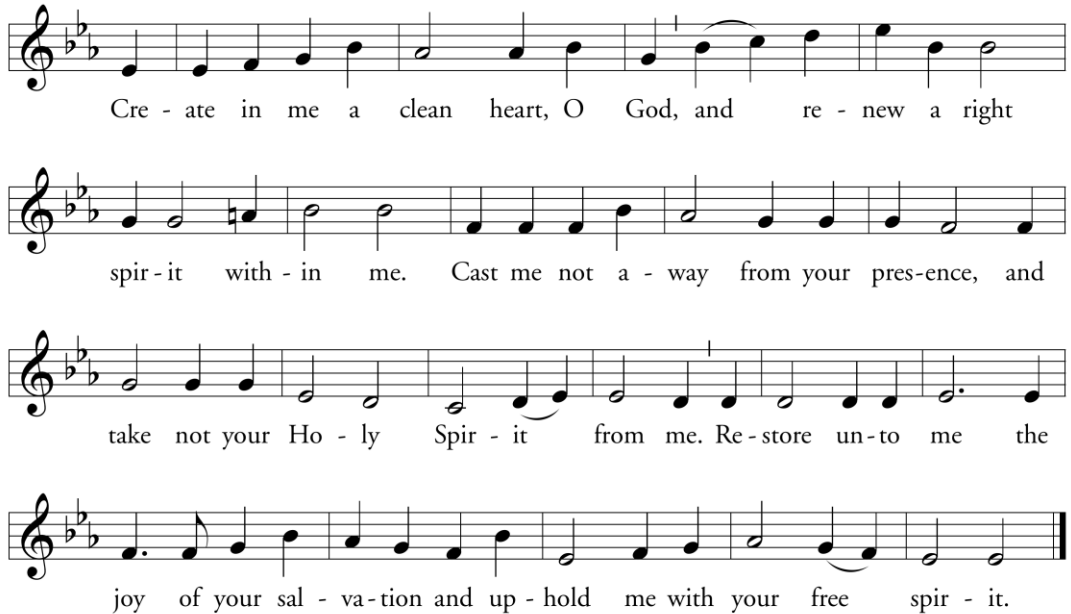
OFFERTORY ANTHEM Comfort, Comfort

arr. John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!
For the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!
Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That God’s word is never broken.

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

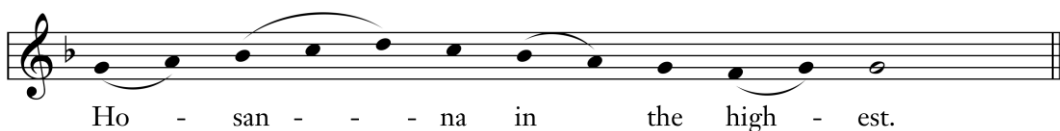
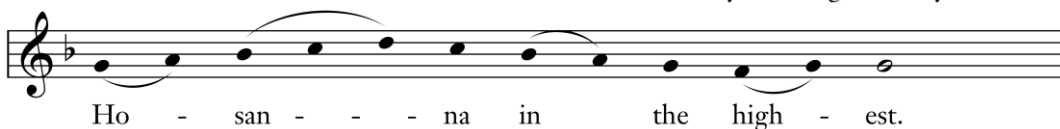
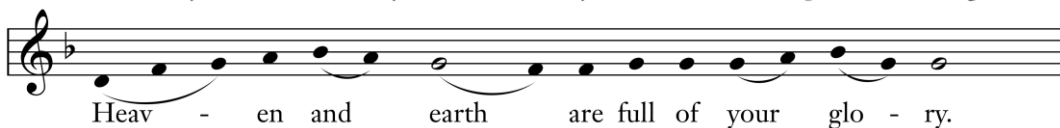
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

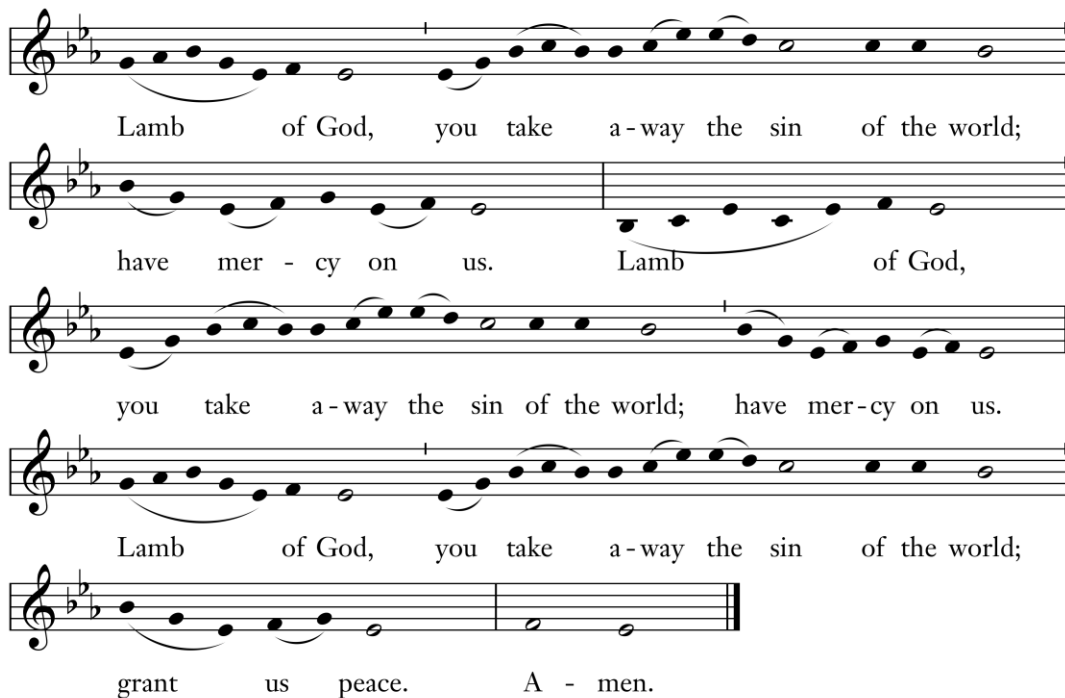
The presiding minister lifts the bread and cup and says

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



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

We sit.

COMMUNION

We stand.

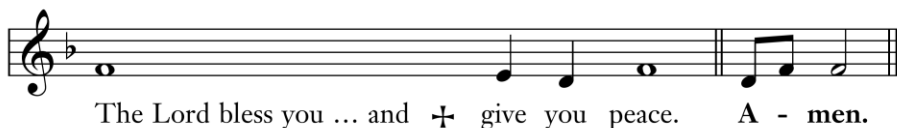
✠ SENDING ✠

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.

SENDING HYMN 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on FREU DICH SEHR

J.C. Oley

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Edna Carol and Edward Bernasek from Ann, Mark and Mark Cordell.

This week we keep in prayer Elizabeth Efirid, 142 Bermuda Village Drive, Room 1, Bermuda Run, NC 27006-7867. Please send **Elizabeth** a note.

Congratulations to the Roediger family upon the birth of Charles “Charlie” Lamar Roediger, IV! Charlie was born on November 17. He is the son of Charles and Lizzy Roediger and the grandson of Chuck and Becky Roediger.

Don't rush to Christmas, it's Actually Advent! Join Pastor Paul for week two of a four-week Bible study on Tuesday, December 8 on Zoom. He will offer the Bible Study live twice daily at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. You are invited to learn more about why Advent Scripture matters and why we should not rush to Christmas. No preparation is necessary and all are welcome. A zoom link and this week's scripture passages will be sent on December 7.

Registration for Christmas Eve worship service will begin on Monday, December 14. Augsburg will host four services on December 24 in the parking lot behind the Augsburg Community Center. The Children's Christmas service will take place at 10:30 a.m. and traditional Christmas Eve worship services will take place at 12:30, 2:30, and 4:30 p.m. with drive through Communion at the end of each service. All participants will remain in their vehicles and receive the sound via a FM radio station. Pre-registration will be required.

Instead of Poinsettias, Christmas Blessings Bags dedications and donations will be accepted through Monday, December 16. Dedication will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Checks should be made payable to Augsburg Lutheran Church. The cost is \$15 per dedication.

Shelter looks different this year! Even though we are not hosting guests on our campus, we are still providing meals throughout the season. We have committed to providing lunches and dinner every Thursday from December through March. You can sign up using this link <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/407005958080468079/true#/invitation>

If you have any questions or need assistance Contact John Collins (336-408-1519; jchcollins@gmail.com) or Ann Ragan anncragan@gmail.com). John Collins will send a Shelter sign up email.

We keep you in prayer during our time apart. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or pastoralassociate@alcws.org

Altar Flower Dedication. There is still space for 2021 dedications. Please contact the Betty Covington at covingtonbet@gmail.com if you are interested. Cost is \$80.00.

Please keep our Financial Secretary Joyce Holton in your prayers as she recovers from a recent fall. Council has appointed Kris Andrews to serve as Acting Financial Secretary during Joyce's absence. There are many ways to make a tax deductible gift to support Augsburg's ministries before the end of 2020. Augsburg is able to accept gifts of securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Please email financialsecretary@alcws.org or call the church office for more information.

Readings for next week: Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Worship attendance for services last week: 437 views on YouTube.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Jacob Andrews

Reader

Paul Anders

Preaching

Pastor Wollner

Quartet

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

Greeter

Robert Ulery

Assisting Minister

Pastor Carter

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(336) 722-8144

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

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation