

...pray without ceasing, ...  
*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

*Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel*

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 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 a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. 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.*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five*

*The paraments are blue during the season of Advent, suggesting hope.*

## **✠ GATHERING ✠**

### **ACCLAMATION**

Words by Michael Morgan

Music by William Stevens

May gladness tune the mournful song our souls by turns must sing.

When heartfelt sorrows weigh so strong we know but languishing.

Let us delight! To us belong the joys your Son will bring!

### **OPENING VOLUNTARY** Chorale Prelude on WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

Timothy Olsen

*We stand.*

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **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 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

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.**

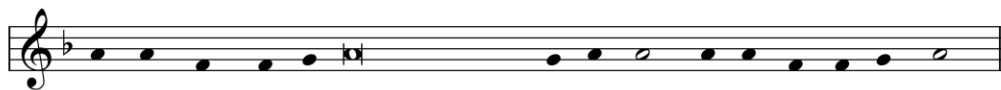
# KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



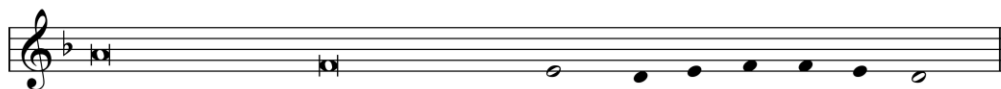
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

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

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *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 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

- <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.
- <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- <sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.
- <sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering 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

*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 John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

## SERMON

Pastor Carter

*We stand.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY 243 Lost in the Night

LOST IN THE NIGHT

1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,  
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?  
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,  
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;

long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,  
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row?  
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,  
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,

plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.  
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?  
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.  
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.

Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.  
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## 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, shine your radiance 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 presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

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.*

*We sit.*

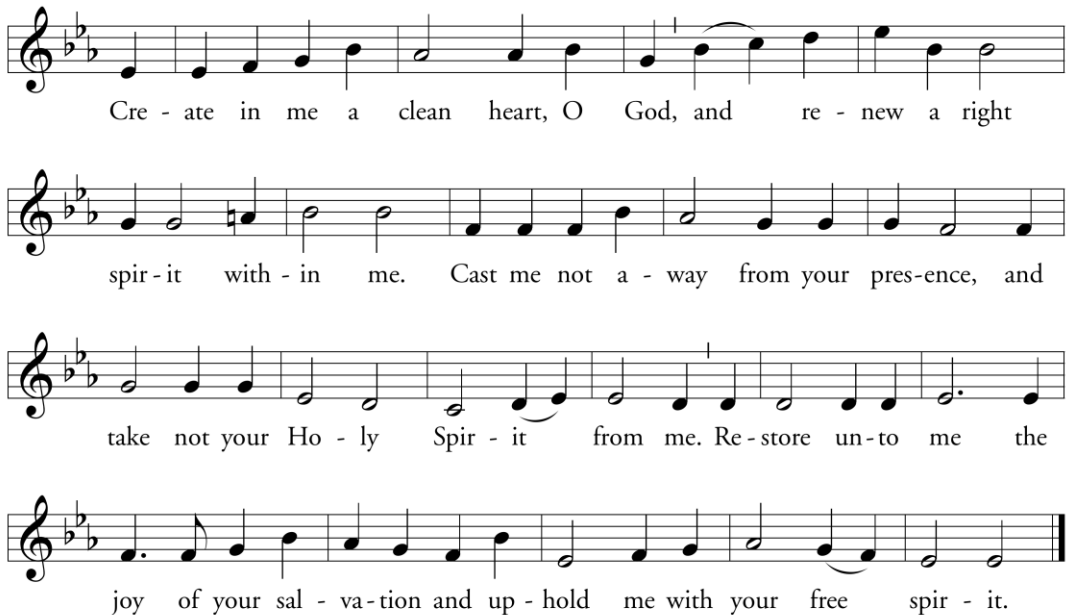
## ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Savior of the Nations, Come Balthasar Resinarius  
Savior of the nations, come, virgin's Son, make here thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

*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.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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.**

## 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;**

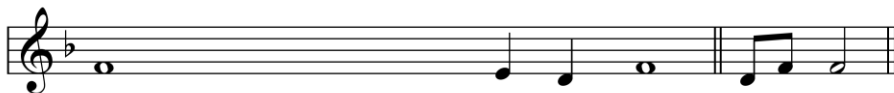
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

## BLESSING



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

SENDING HYMN 239 Hark the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** Prelude on CHESTERFIELD

Healey Willan

## ***Soli Deo Gloria***

*The liturgical texts and music printed in today's bulletin are reprinted from the LBW, WOV and ELW, © 1978, 1995 and 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14658-LIT.*

*Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-707232.*

*All rights reserved.*

## Announcements

**The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of Cody Nelson, by his parents, David and Ruth Marie Kinley. Every year, the second Sunday in December is remembered as National Children's Memorial Day by The Compassionate Friends. All people are invited to light a candle at 7:00 p.m. and allow it to burn for one hour in quiet remembrance of children who have died and will never be forgotten.

**This week we keep in prayer Roger Schwartz**, 3681 Marlowe Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27106. Please send **Roger** a note.

**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 Wednesday, 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.

**If you have items for the January Beacon**, please email them to Kathy Barnes at [kathy@alcws](mailto:kathy@alcws) before Wednesday, December 16.

***Don't rush to Christmas, it's Actually Advent!*** Join Pastor Paul for week three of a four-week Bible study on Tuesday, December 15 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 14.

**Altar Flower Dedication.** Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. We currently have an open slot for January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please contact Betty Covington at [covingtonbet@gmail.com](mailto:covingtonbet@gmail.com). The cost is \$80.00.

**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](mailto:seniorpastor@alcws.org) and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or [pastoralassociate@alcws.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@alcws.org)

**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](mailto:financialsecretary@alcws.org) or call the church office for more information.

**Readings for next week:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27;  
Luke 1:26-38

**Worship attendance for services last week: 218 views on YouTube.**

### **Providing Service Today**

*Bulletin Cover Artist*

Abram Richardson

*Greeter*

Nanette Shutt

*Reader*

Karen Kooken

*Assisting Minister*

Pastor Wollner

*Preaching*

Pastor Carter

*Quartet*

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

## **AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH**

845 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

E-mail addresses available at [www.alcws.org](http://www.alcws.org)

(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*