



The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,
throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Psalm 146:10

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

11:00 AM

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

*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.*

Masks are optional inside all Augsburg facilities. Please be mindful of those who wish to remain distanced.

On the center aisle of each pew is a folder known as the Friendship Register. Please sign the register and check if you are communing today. Be sure to review the sheet to identify visitors. Please hand the completed pages from the register to an usher during the singing of the Hymn of the Day.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five

Our parament colors are blue, suggesting hope.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

Text: Michael Morgan

Music: 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!

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Sandy Beard

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your 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.

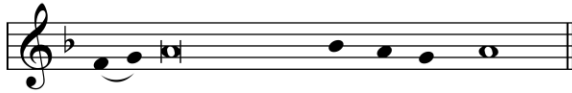
GATHERING HYMN 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

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.



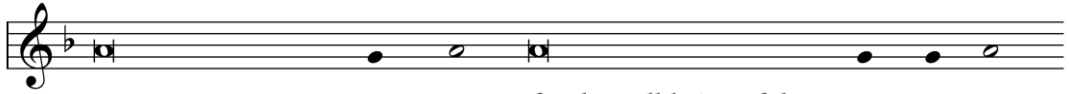
Lord have mer - cy.



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*

Refrain

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

PRAYER

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 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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



- ⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
- ⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;
- ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.
- ⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.
- ⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- ¹⁰The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Rev. Paul A. Wollner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Each portion of the prayers conclude:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

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.**

We sit.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM A New Magnificat

Text: I Sam. 2; Luke 1

Music: Carolyn Jennings

Hannah

My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies; I rejoice in God's salvation.

Mary

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
who looks upon a lowly handmaid with favor. All generations shall call me blessed.

Refrain – sung by the Assembly



Hannah

There is none holy like the Lord; there is no rock like our God.
Let not your mouth be arrogant, for the Lord is a God of all knowledge.

Mary

For God who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy, holy, holy is God's name.
And God's mercy is given to God's people from generation to generation.

Hannah/Mary

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble put on strength.
Those who were full are hungry, and those who were hungry are filled.

The Lord Kills and brings to life; God brings low and also exalts.
God lifts up the poor from the dust to sit with rulers and inherit a seat of honor.

Strong is the arm of the Lord, who has scattered the proud in their hearts;
God has put down the mighty and lifted up those of low degree.
Strong is the arm of the Lord, who has scattered the proud in their hearts;
God has filled the hungry, and the rich have been sent empty away.

Refrain – sung by the Assembly



My heart o'er-flows, Al-le - lu - ia!

Hannah

God will guard the faithful flock, and human might shall not prevail.
The Lord will judge the earth; and will exalt the power of God's anointed.

Mary

For the Lord has helped the servant Israel in remembrance of God's love and mercy,
Which was promised to Sarah and Abraham, and to their children's children forever.

Refrain – sung by the Assembly



My heart o'er-flows, Al-le - lu - ia!

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.

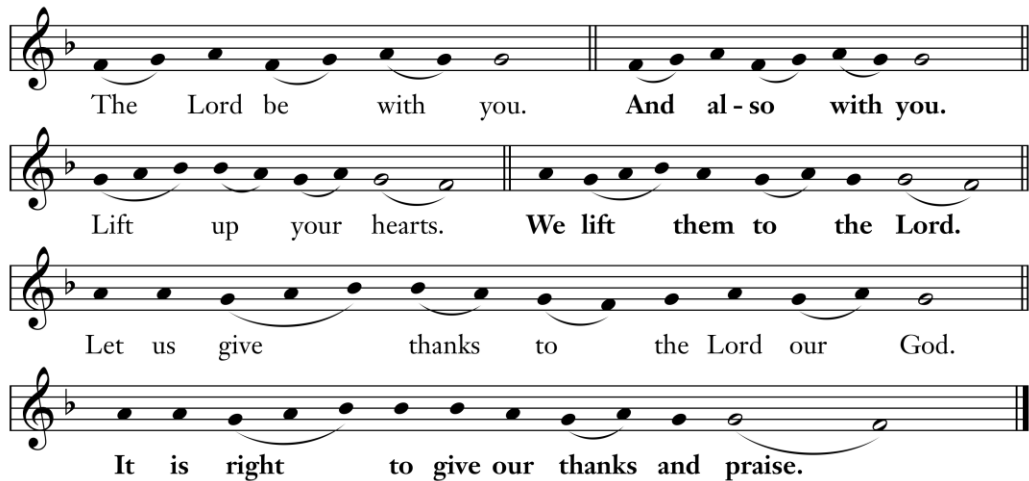
God of all creation, all you have made is good,
and your love endures forever.

You bring forth bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.

Nourish us with these gifts,

that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

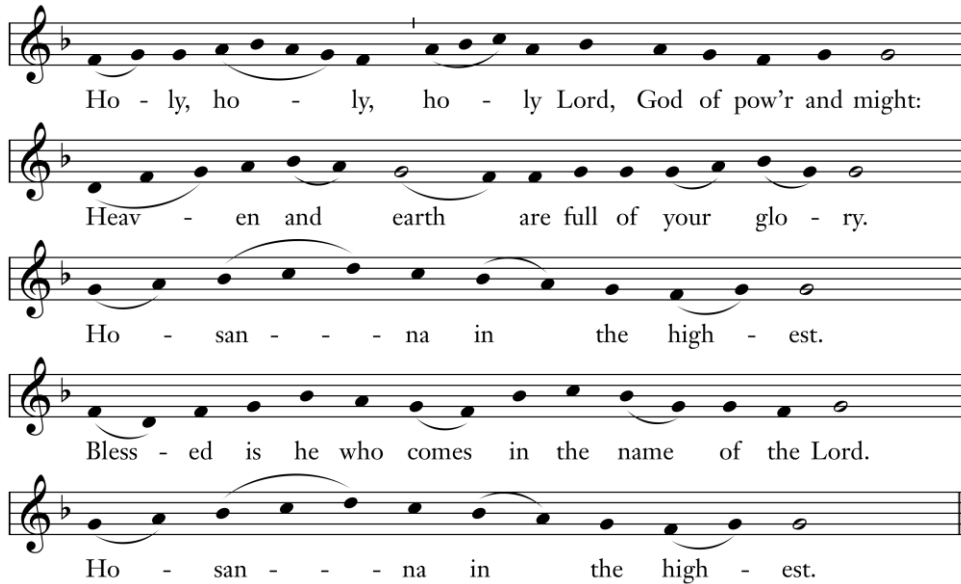
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC 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 Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de-liv-er us from e - vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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

Holy Communion is available to all who believe, through two options. Those who are able are invited forward to receive the bread and wine through the method of intinction. Please let an usher know if you need a gluten-free wafer or grape juice option. You may also choose to receive an individual pre-sealed communion kit from an usher that you are welcome to bring forward for the Eucharistic Proclamation. The pastors will come to the pews of those unable to come forward. Those who would like to receive a blessing instead of communion are asked to cross their hands when they come forward.

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 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

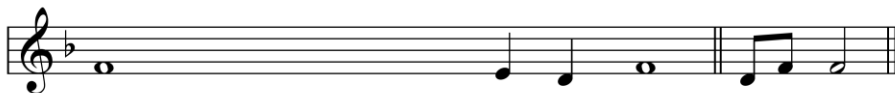
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er.
A - men.

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING



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

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. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599

J.S.Bach

Julianne Zbu, Music Intern

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AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament

The Reverend Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Joe Yucha, Associate Pastor

Rostered Minister of Word and Service

The Reverend Katie B. Bryant, Youth & Emerging Ministries

Our rostered ministers observe Friday as their sabbath day.

Please refer to the announcement sheet for the pastor on call.

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Daniele Olsen, Interim Administrative Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Director of Faith Formation

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Julianne Zhu, Music Intern

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation