

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

11:00 AM

*Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel*

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.*

**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**

Timothy Olsen

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

*(Luke 3:4, 6)*

### **OPENING VOLUNTARY** Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

*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.**

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 264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

**BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN**

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.

*We sit.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist

and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,

and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,

until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

**HYMN 240** Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*stanza 2 only*)

TIF IN VELDELE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

*After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.*

### WELCOME

### COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

## ✠ 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**

*Refrain* (Sung once by the choir, repeated by the choir and assembly)



Righ-teous - ness shall pre - pare a path-way for God.

*(Verses sung by the Assembly)*



<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land. **℟**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. **℟**

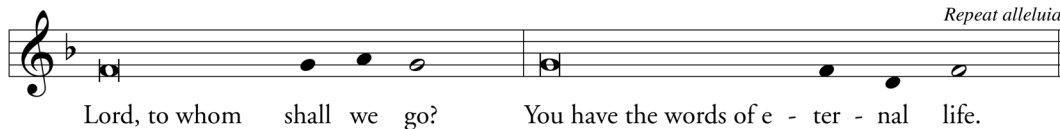
**SECOND READING** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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



## GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark. *The assembly responds:* **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. *The assembly responds:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON

Rev. Joe Yucha

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 249 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

PUER NOBIS

*We sit.*

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

p. 227

*We stand.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*Each portion of the prayers conclude:*

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

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE 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 congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another. Please honor those who prefer not to physically share the peace.*

*We sit.*

## ✠ MEAL ✠

## OFFERING

*We pass the offering plates in recognition that we are all invited to participate in sharing the gifts of abundance with what God has first given us. We recognize that many share their financial gifts online or at different frequencies; passing the plates connects us in our giving, no matter how we share. Please pass the plate down the pew and then onto the next row.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul 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 savèd 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



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 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.

The image shows a musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff has a slightly more complex melody with some eighth notes. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence.

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.

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff has a slightly more complex melody with some eighth notes. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence.

## **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 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## 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. 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 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People


FREU DICH SEHR

*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.

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 God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*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** 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** Prepare the Royal Highway

Paul Manz

***Soli Deo Gloria!***

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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.

Daniele Olsen: Executive Assistant

Kris Andrews: Interim Financial Administrator

Carl Davis: Sexton

Dr. Timothy Olsen: Cantor

Christin Barnhardt: Handbell & Children's Music Director

Hannah Norem: Vicar & Communications Coordinator

Robin Welch: Youth & Outreach Coordinator

*Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*