

HOLY COMMUNION
Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016

8:00 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. 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.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

264

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

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

Kneel/Stand

P Most merciful God,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

Stand

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

Your prophets spoke of a day
when the desert would blossom

and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

☩ Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

☩ A reading from Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it 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.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say 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."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then 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;

⁷the 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.

⁸A 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.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰And 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.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

A A reading from James.

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

📖 The holy gospel according to Matthew.

☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly 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.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Weleck

Stand

The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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

- A** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A** We give you thanks, O Lord, and praise your holy name, for you are good and your mercy endures forever. You create us, and you sustain us. You redeem us and you sanctify us. You give bread for the body and you refresh our souls with your life-giving Spirit. You take away the burden of our sins, comfort us in every sorrow, and bless us with more than we can ask or think. To you be glory in the church forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for the church, for its pastors and bishops, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C 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.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY

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

The image shows a musical score for the Offertory. It consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble and a bass staff. The music is written in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system of staves contains the lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second system of staves contains the lyrics '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.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray...Merciful Father,
- C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The minister continues with the WORDS OF INSTITUTION, usually included in a Eucharistic Prayer.

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

C Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

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

R Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

Stand

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (NUNC DIMITTIS)



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.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Comfort Comfort Now My People*

Pachelbel



The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

A Hymn of Praise is not appropriate during Advent because of the season's preparatory nature.

The liturgical color blue, symbolic of hope, is used for the Advent season.

Vestry Members	Special Area	Home Phone	E-mail Address
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Jack Schatz	<i>Old Church</i>	610-489-3176	
Karl Stefan	<i>Cemetery/Mutual Ministry</i>	610-454-0373	kssurf@verizon.net

Assisting in the Service

Altar Servers: Ben Richvalsky and Ally Napier

Ushers: 8:00 am: Members of the 8:00 am Usher Team

10:30 am: Michael Beattie, David Halteman, Scott Halteman, and Richard Allebach

Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller 10:30 am: Sean McClain and Barbara Burch

Communion Assistants: 8:00 am: Debra Augustine

10:30 am: Bob Rodenberger and Janice Reiff

Offering Tabulation: Debra Augustine, Karl Stefan, and Jeanne Funk

Altar Guild: 8:00 am Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Donna and Joe Cooney

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle is given to the glory of God by Shirley Latshaw in loving memory of parents, Howard and Emma Ziegler and Frank and Mildred Latshaw.

The Altar Flowers in the Upper Nave are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Allebach in loving memory of the December 15 birthday anniversary of Mother, Blanche J. Allebach.

The Centervase Flowers in the Upper Nave are given in loving memory of D. R. DeWane, Jr., from his family.

The Wreaths that adorn the church doors and windows are given to the glory of God by the Holcome family in memory of loved ones.

Altar Guild Needs Your Assistance!! No experience necessary. We fill the candles with oil, the pitchers with wine, and put flowers in the vases. We work in partners and serve two or three times in a year. Please call Donna Beishl at 610-350-0238 to have any questions about this function answered.

Christmas Pageant: Please plan to attend our Sunday school's Christmas pageant on December 18th at 10:30 a.m. The children have been working hard and are looking forward to telling the story of Christmas!

Parents of children aged three through sixth grade: Please feel free to relax in the Fellowship Hall with coffee and other parents while your children are in Sunday school. Or, join the adult Bible study class that meets during the Sunday school hour. Take-home activity pages are available at the registration desk so that you can reinforce the story with your children at home and the Spark Bible, with all our Sunday school stories, is available for purchase at <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8122/Spark-Story-Bible-Sunday-School-Edition>.

Social Ministry Committee - Hat and Glove Tree:

We will again be collecting winter hats and gloves for Silver Springs Martin Luther School. At the request of school personnel, please no hand knitted or crocheted items and no scarves or mittens. Sizes range from Age 7 through adult. Please place your donations on the Christmas tree in the lower narthex. Thank you!

A Big Shout Out to our Augustus Family. We sold about 105 dozen cookies for our Senior High Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser this year. Thank you to all the youth and parents who baked all these delicious cookies, and those who assembled the plates, wrapped the plates and delivered and sold the cookies. We have an AMAZING church Family here at Augustus. So very proud to be a part of it. Enjoy the rest of the Holiday season.

Thank you for your generosity! Our annual Toy Drive for Silver Springs/Martin Luther School was a great success. The ladies were able to deliver a carload of gifts to this worthwhile organization. Thank you!

Shut In Fruit Baskets: On Saturday, DECEMBER 17th at 10:00 a.m. volunteers are needed to help with Augustus' shut-ins baskets. Volunteers are needed to purchase fruit (a day ahead), wrap and deliver baskets for Augustus shut-in members living in their homes and in nursing and retirement homes. Baskets without handles, holly berry sprigs to decorate baskets, Christmas wrapping paper, stiff clear plastic wrapping, etc., will be needed for the fruit baskets. Your contribution to this effort will be much appreciated. Thank you. Fran Ivarson for WELCA

Girls Night Out – Monday, December 19!! Take a break from Christmas preparations and come and enjoy a relaxing evening of painting and socializing. You will go home with a beautiful painting of a winter scene. Artistic talent NOT required! We will begin at 6:30 pm at Painting with a Twist, 70 Buckwalter Rd #411, Royersford, (484) 450-6972. This is in the Limerick Square Shopping Center across from Texas Roadhouse. The price is \$35. Seating is limited. Please call or email Deb Scholl by December 14 at (610) 409-1950 or schollde@aol.com for further information and to reserve your spot! Sponsored by WELCA but open to all over the age of 13. Ages 14 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult.
www.paintingwithatwist.com/royersford

Can the Senior Youth Group help you? The Senior group goes on a Mission trip every year during the summer. During these trips we do service projects for families in need. We realize that we don't have to travel in order to help those in need. If you have a service project that our youth could assist in, please let us know. Please send your request to youth@augustustrappe.org. We are looking to do 3-5 projects throughout the year. Any materials needed would have to be purchased by those for whom we are doing the work. The labor and supervision will be provided by the youth group. Once requests are made, we will determine which projects we are able to do.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
Sunday	12/11	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel
		9:00 am	Sunday School
		9:00 am	Sunday School Parent Fellowship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		10:30 am	Holy Communion in the Upper Nave
Monday	12/12		
Tuesday	12/13	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
		7:00 pm	Community Club
Wednesday	12/14	8:30 am	MOPS
		9:30 am	Soup Kitchen Outreach
		6:00 pm	3-in-1 Confirmation Classes
Thursday	12/15	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Friday	12/16	12:30 pm	MOPS Christmas Party
		7:00 pm	Pack Meeting
Saturday	12/17	10:00 am	WELCA Christmas Baskets
Sunday	12/18	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel
		9:00 am	Sunday School & Parent Fellowship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		10:30 am	The Service in the Upper Nave
			Children's Christmas Pageant
		1:00 pm	Living Nativity Practice
			Sr. Youth Christmas Party

Christmas Services:

- December 24

5:00 PM

Family Service of Lessons and Carols with
Living Nativity in the Old Trappe Church
- 7:00 PM

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
in the Old Trappe Church
- 9:00 PM

Holy Communion Service with Carols and
Candlelight in the Brick Church
- December 25

No Services on Christmas Day.
- January 1

9:30 AM Lessons and Carols Service

2016 Christmas Poinsettias

POINSETTIAS CAN NOW BE ORDERED FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please include payment with your order.

Make checks payable to: AUGUSTUS FLOWER FUND

Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer
412 Dartmoor Road
Schwenksville, Pa. 19473
Phone: 610-287-2827
E-mail: kal412@comcast.net



ORDER DEADLINE:	Sunday, December 11, 2016
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POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME _____

COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL \$
RED	_____ @ \$9.50 ea	_____
WHITE	_____ @ \$9.50 ea	_____

Check One:
_____ I will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24.
_____ Please distribute my plants to others.

I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read:
