HOLY COMMUNION First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 am

Bach

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Printed on the next page.

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending





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,

Amen.

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.

- 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.
- **G** And also with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father 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. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

HYMN: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (Stanza(s) 1)

Printed on the next page.



Later service only:

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*The congregation's verses are printed in bold font.*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh, stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore us, O | God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts.

how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears; you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of | your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself.

¹⁷And so will we never turn a- | way from you; give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁸Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from First Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

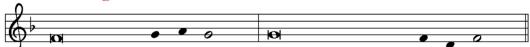
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation.



The choir sings the Verse.



Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD, and grant us | your salvation.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sit

SERMON Pastor Weleck

Stand

Later service only:

HYMN OF THE DAY: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Printed on the following pages.

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A735208. All rights reserved.

Stand

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.
- 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

- With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, 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.
- 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,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Q** And also with you.

Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.

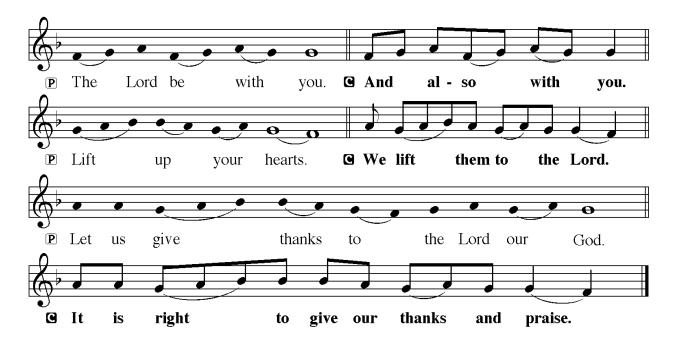
LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

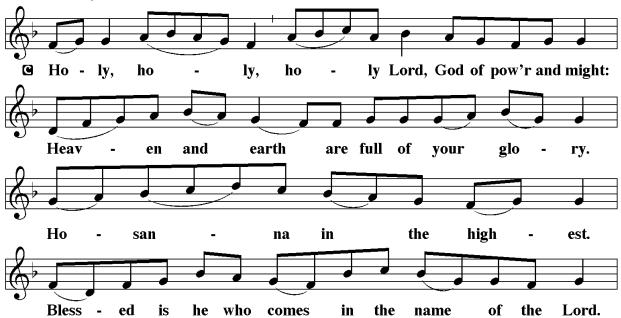
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

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:





The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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

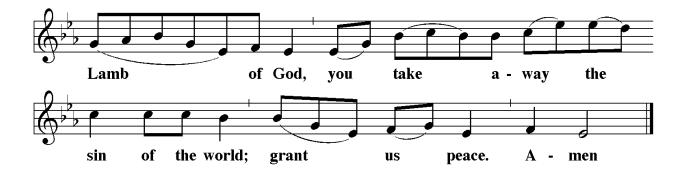
Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" 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.

Music during Communion:

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)





Later service only:

ANTHEM: The Yearning

Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

Text by Susan Bentall Boersma; Music by Craig Courtney. This arrangement Copyright © 2011 by Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved. Reprinted and podcast under OneLicense #A-735208.

Stand

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

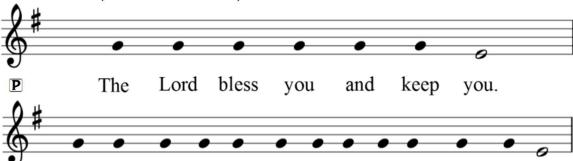
A Let us pray.

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

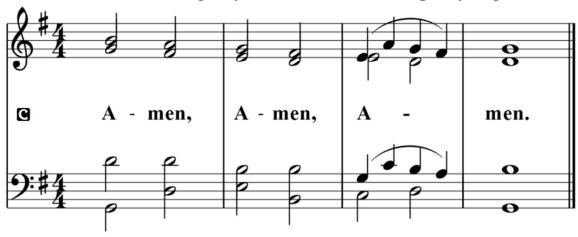
BLESSING (BENEDICTION)



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



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



DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Soon and Very Soon

Printed on the next page.

Soon and Very Soon



OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying Chesterton



From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS017622.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in public domain.



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.



Worship Assistants

Ushers: Gary Halteman, David Halteman, Scott Halteman, and Dick Allebach Elevator Attendant: Mike Taylor

Lector: Matt Vera Communion Assistant: John Kochel

Acolyte: Lilly North Crucifer: Andrew Schlegel

Altar Guild: 8:00 am: Debra Augustine and Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Deb Scholl Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner and Matthew Vera

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by M&M Joseph Cooney and family in loving memory of father and grandfather Frederick E. Schubert.

<u>The Centervase Flowers</u> are given to the glory of God by Barbara Rice in loving memory of husband, Richard.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Nancee Clelland in honor of children and grandchildren.

<u>The Wreaths that adorn the doors</u> of the brick church, old church, parish house and Muhlenberg Center are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in memory of loved ones.

It's Augustus Lutheran Church Week at Captain's Market!



Tuesday, December 5th through Saturday, Dec. 9th

Please stop by or order online this week! Captain's Market is located next to the Trappe Tavern at 430 W. Main St. Trappe

Store Hours: Tues-Fri, 11-6 & Sat, 11-5

15% of your total purchase will go back to Augustus Lutheran Church!

Just mention you're supporting the 15% week fundraiser at the register!

We are your Butcher, Baker, & Crab Cake Maker! Featuring Capt'n Chucky's Crab Cakes, Certified Angus Beef, Pellmans Desserts, Marchiano's Stuffed Breads, a full line of charcuterie and so much more!

Call 484-902-8030 or order online at ccstrk.com



2023 Christmas Poinsettias

Order Form		
Mail to:	Karen Lachenmayer P	hone: 610-715-4850
412 Dartmoor Road E-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail.com		
Schwenksville, Pa. 19473		
	ORDER DEADLINE:	Sunday, December 3, 2023
NAME		
CONTACT INFO:		
COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL \$
RED	@ \$11.00 ea	
WHITE	@ \$11.00 ea	
Check O	ne:	
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:		

Christmas Poinsettias: The Outreach Committee is hard at work preparing the church for Christmas. The Worship & Music Committee provides a way for you to help! Please prayerfully consider buying at least one poinsettia this year to decorate the sanctuary in red and white. If you can do more than one, that would be even more fantastic. They are so lovely in person and can also be seen on the live stream for people watching from home. If you do not wish to take your poinsettias home with you after the Christmas service, please let us know on your form. We will tag donated plants with a message of hope from Augustus and will distribute them in assisted living homes to let the residents know that Augustus cares about them. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor.

ADVENT REMEMBRANCE DOVES: A pair of doves represent love, friendship, and peace. When two doves couple together, they enter into partnership for a lifetime. At Christmas, people tend to remember those that have gone before them. If you are thinking of someone special this Christmas Season, we will be offering you two free remembrance doves in memory of that person. One to keep for your Christmas tree reminding you of their presence throughout the season, and one to leave at Augustus adorning the Christmas Tree in the nave to remind you that they are with Jesus, the one we are celebrating at Christmas.



