# **HOLY COMMUNION Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 13, 2020** 

8:00 am and 10:30 am

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

"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.

#### SILENT PRAYER

**PRELUDE:** Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Lloyd

Augustus Handbell Choir

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

**HYMN:** Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

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# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



## **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.
- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Kneel/Stand

- **P** 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.

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 bear 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

Use this blessing when lighting three candles.

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.

#### **G** Amen.

**HYMN:** Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Immanuel (Stanza(s) 1, 2, 3)

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#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### Sit

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

# A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

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

## Later service only:

## **PSALM Luke 1:46b-55** (*The congregation reads the verses in bold face type.*)

<sup>1</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord;\*

my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>2</sup>for he has | looked with favor\* on his | lowly servant.

<sup>3</sup>From this day all | generations\* will | call me blessed.

<sup>4</sup>The Almighty has done great | things for me,\* and holy | is his name.

<sup>5</sup>He has mercy on | those who fear him\* in every | generation.

<sup>6</sup>He has shown the strength | of his arm;\* he has scattered the proud in | their conceit.

<sup>7</sup>He has cast down the mighty | from their thrones,\* and has lifted | up the lowly.

<sup>8</sup>He has filled the hungry | with good things,\* and the rich he has sent | away empty.

<sup>9</sup>He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,\* for he has remembered his prom- | ise of mercy,

<sup>10</sup>the promise he made | to our fathers,\* to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,\* and to the | Holy Spirit;

as it was in the begin- | ning, is now,\* and will be forev- | er. Amen

#### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

# A reading from First Thessalonians.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

- **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** John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sit

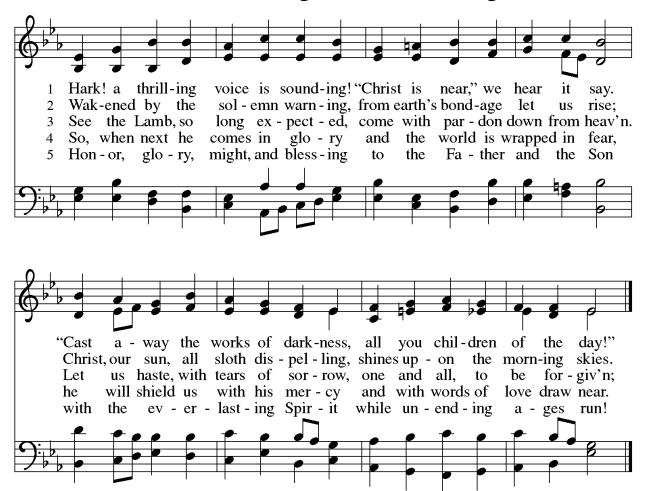
**SERMON** Pastor Weleck

#### Stand

## *Later service only:*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

# Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



#### 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.
- 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,
- **C** 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,
- **e** 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.

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church. The service continues with the Great Thanksgiving.

# LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **9** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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:

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.

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

- 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

- 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.

## LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

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, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given 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. At the direction of the ushers, approach the communion station, receive the host in your palm, move to the side and place the host in your mouth, and return to your seat.

#### **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 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.

**HYMN:** People, Look East

Printed on the next page.

# People, Look East



#### **OFFERING**

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

**POSTLUDE:** Fling Wide the Door Greene

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**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.

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Janet Stokes	Parish Life / Stewardship	sjastokes@aol.com

# Worship Assistants

Vestry Greeters: Janet Stokes and Sherry Jessee

Ushers: Dick Allebach, Scott Halteman, and Mike Taylor

Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller 10:30 am: Sonya Sowards

Altar Guild: Jim Lien and Linda Romano

Offering Tabulation: Janet Stokes and Sherry Jessee

Video Production: Jim Lien

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by Jim and Sally Lorah in loving memory of our parents.

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

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Robert Reichner in loving memory of dear wife Joanne.

<u>The Wreaths on the doors of the church buildings</u> are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in memory of loved ones.

# We're so glad to see you today!

We hope you are as glad to be back at worship as we are! Please keep in mind that the church, like everywhere else during these careful times, has had to make changes in order to adhere to CDC guidelines. Some of these changes are inconvenient, but we must all do our part to protect ourselves and our church family. Your patience and cooperation are very much appreciated. If you have questions about new policies, please feel free to speak with one of the Vestry ushers.

Please see a list of changes/requirements for worship on the following page.

We will continue to post videos of our services on our web site along with the complete bulletin for those who are unable to join us during this strange time in which we live.

The Church office and all church buildings will remain closed through the summer.

Please check our web site for opening updates. The Parish Administrator will be available during normal office hours via telephone or e-mail.

We are never alone during this stressful time. Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.

# **Augustus Re-Opening Information for Parishioners: Green Phase**

- Please stay home if you are sick, feel ill, have a fever, or have been exposed to an individual diagnosed with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) within the last 14 days.
- Please stay home if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor.
- Worship will be held at the usual times: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.
- Before entering the Church, please put on your own facemask or cloth covering. (Facemasks will not be provided by Augustus.) Exceptions to wearing a facemask or other covering are "children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing ... and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance" (CDC Guidelines).
- Please maintain social distancing guidelines with those people who are not members of your household.
- Due to current restrictions, you will probably not sit in your usual place at worship. Ushers will direct you to your seat, filling the church from the front to back to minimize contact. The only appropriate response to this temporary but necessary change is a patient and loving spirit.
- A complete large print worship bulletin will be given to you by an usher. No hymnals will be used. When leaving the church, please take the bulletin with you or place it in the recycle bin. It cannot be re-used.
- We will sing less than customary during the Green Phase. This is an added disappointment for Lutherans, but it is only a temporary restriction.
- Communion will be distributed to you as you come forward at the direction of the ushers. Only the host will be distributed. It will be placed in the palm of your hand. Please keep your mask on and move away from the Pastor. Then remove your mask, place the host in your mouth, and put your mask back on and return to your seat.
- The ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows starting in the back of the church. Please proceed immediately and directly to the exit of the church building.
- The offering will be received as you leave. Please place your offering in one of the receptacles at the door.

# **2020 Christmas Poinsettias**

POINSETTIAS CAN NOW BE ORDERED FOR CHRISTMAS!
Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to: AUGUSTUS
FLOWER FUND

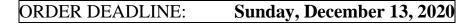
Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer

412 Dartmoor Road

Schwenksville, Pa. 19473

Phone: 619-715-4850

E-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail



## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME
CONTACT INFO:
COLOR QUANTITY TOTAL \$
RED @ \$10.00 ea
WHITE @ \$10.00 ea
Check One:I will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24Please distribute my plants to others.
I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read:

**THANK YOU!** Gemma Services was overwhelmed with the toys, gift cards, and other donations we were able to provide. Many thanks to our always generous parishioners and especially the Sunday school families who contributed so much.

