HOLY COMMUNION Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

8:00 am and 10:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE:

8:00 AM: People Look East

Peterson

10:30 AM: But Who May Abide/For He Is Like a Refiner's Fire Alan Shunk, Baritone

Handel

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once, a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Printed on the next page.

Prepare the Royal Highway



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,
- 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, 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

- Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
 John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way
 for the kingdom of heaven is near.
 Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
 Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
 that we may be a light shining in the darkness
 welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
 for he is our light and our salvation.
 Blessed be God forever.
- **G** Amen.

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

Printed on the next page.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Later service only:

PSALM Luke 1:68-79 (*The congregation's verses are printed in bold font.*)

Blessed be the Lord, the | God of Israel;*

he has come to his people and | set them free.

He has raised up for us a | mighty Savior,* born of the house of his | servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us | from our enemies,* from the hands of | all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy | to our fathers* and to remember his | holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our | father Abraham:* to set us free from the hands | of our enemies,

free to worship him | without fear,* holy and righteous in his sight all the days | of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet | of the Most High,* for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare his way,

to give his people knowledge | of salvation* by the forgiveness | of their sins.

In the tender compassion | of our God,*

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of death,* and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

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.

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

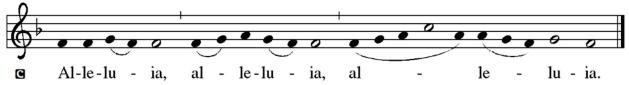
A reading from Philippians.

one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

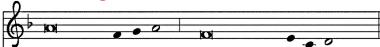
- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

The congregation sings the Acclamation.



The choir sings the Verse.



Prepare the way of the Lord, make | his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation | of our God

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.



GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

Sit

SERMON Pastor Weleck

Stand

Later service only:

HYMN OF THE DAY: Comfort, Comfort Now My People Printed on the next page.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



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,
- **e** 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.

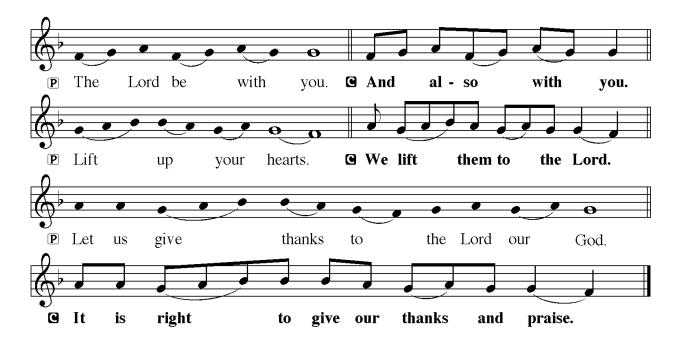
LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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



GREAT THANKSGIVING

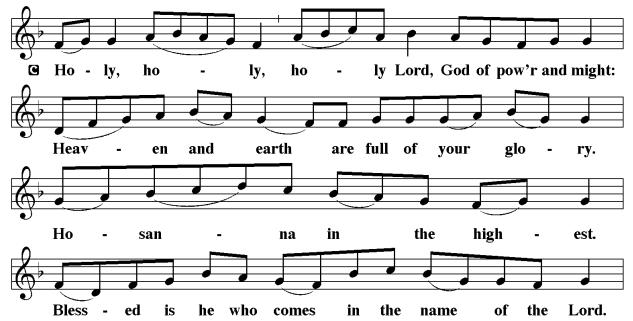
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



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,

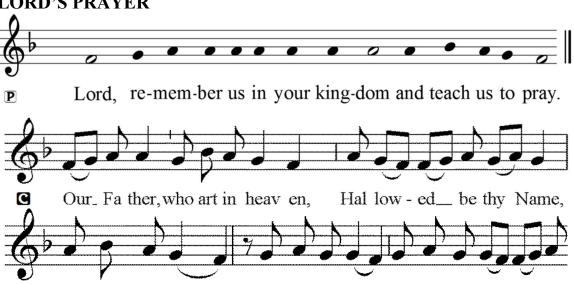
AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING:

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.

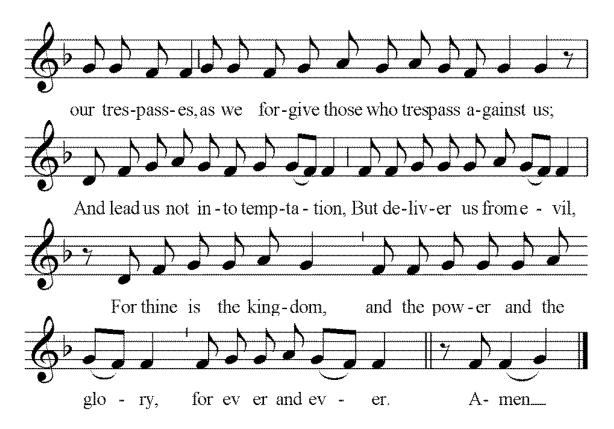
LORD'S PRAYER



Thy King-dom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it__is__in



Give us this day our dai-ly bread; And for-give us heaven.



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.

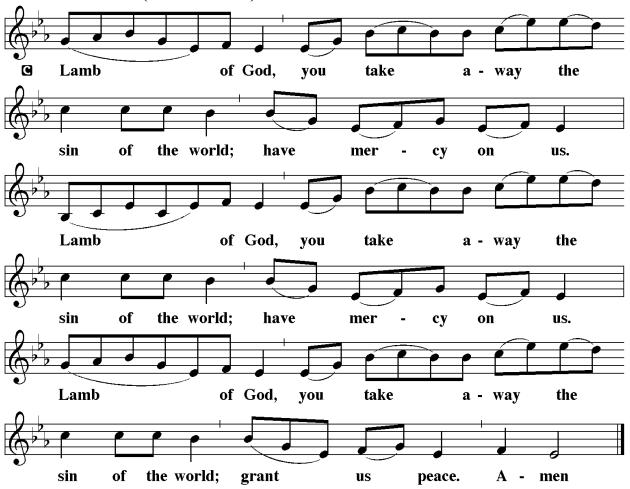
and each person may respond

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)



ANTHEM: I Want to Be Ready

Helvey

I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

John said the city was just four square (walk in Jerusalem just like John)

And he declared he'd meet me there (walk in Jerusalem just like John)

I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

Oh John, Oh John, what do you say (walk in Jerusalem just like John)

That I'll be there at the coming day (walk in Jerusalem just like John) I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

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

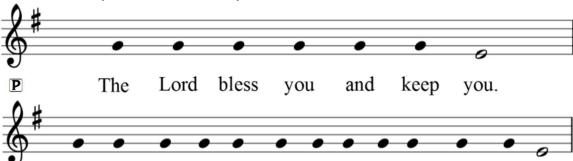
A Let us pray.

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: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Printed on the next page.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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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Vestry Members	Special Area	E-mail Address or
		Phone
Pastor Weleck		pastor@augustustrappe.org
Gary Wessner	President	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	610-948-3488
Sherry Jessee	Secretary	dsajessee@hotmail.com
Debra Augustine	Mutual Ministry	anniedwebb@verizon.net
Frank DePaul	Property	Fvdp52@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	scrabbie1@aol.com.
Cathy Engel-Menendez	Trust Fund Treasurer	Cengel70@yahoo.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	Jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Lois Robinson	Worship and Music	<u>Drloisdrobinson1@gmail.com</u>
Janet Stokes	Parish Life/Stewardship	sjastokes@aol.com

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Dick Allebach, Mike Taylor, Scott Halteman and Shane Elison

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

Altar Guild: Deb Scholl and Sally Sweeney

Offering Tabulation: Debra Augustine, Brian O'Hara, and Chilly Lyaro

Video Production: Jim Lien, Jeannie Funk, or Jonathan Mueller.

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

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Nancy Clelland in honor of children and grandchildren

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Mrs. Deborah Harley in honor of parents Dot and John Moorehead.

<u>Altar Guild Help Wanted:</u> Altar Guild members attend to the altar on Sundays. They change the paraments, prepare Holy Communion, place the flowers, and a host of other small jobs that are so important to our weekly worship. No experience required! We will train you! Contact Deb Scholl at <u>Schollde@aol.com</u>.

<u>Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed:</u> Did you know Augustus's WELCA has a prayer group? People are invited to call the leader of the group, Carol Oelschlager, or the church office with prayer requests and a group of folks will say special prayers based on these requests. This group is now seeking additional people to pray for our congregants and friends. If you are interested in participating, please call Carol Oelschlager at 610-489-3109

<u>Thank You!</u> Many thanks to the Augustus Church Family for your very generous support for Gemma Services and The Silver Spring/Martin Luther School. Each year WELCA is overwhelmed by your thoughtful and plentiful donations of cash, gift cards, and Christmas Gifts for these children. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 5, 2021

11:30 am

Brick Church Nave

2021 Christmas Poinsettias Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to: **AUGUSTUS FLOWER FUND** Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer Phone: 610-715-4850 412 Dartmoor Road E-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail Schwenksville, Pa. 19473 ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 5, 2021 NAME: CONTACT INFO: TOTAL \$ COLOR QUANTITY @ \$11.00 ea RED WHITE @ \$11.00 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:

Christmas Poinsettias

Due to the pandemic, Christmases at Augustus have looked a little different over the last few years. The **Outreach Committee**, working with various church committees, organizations, and community businesses, is working on a few 'surprises' that are above and beyond what the congregation knew even before the pandemic. We have an opportunity for every member of the congregation to join in this church-wide endeavor by participating in the **Worship and Music Committee**'s annual Poinsettia Sale.

Please prayerfully consider purchasing at least one poinsettia this year. If you can do multiple poinsettias, that would be even more fantastic and appreciated. These embellishments are tokens that patrons who are watching our Christmas services at home can even enjoy. Many people have been working behind the scenes for the past three months to create a united vision to enhance your worship experience. These 'surprises' will be seen internally and externally around our campus. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor.

