

Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024 | 8 a.m.



5000 East Alameda Avenue Denver, Colorado 80246

PHONE: 303-388-4678 WEB: augustanadenver.org

Worship | Grow | Go

Welcome to worship during this time of Advent—the first season of the Christian church year that includes the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent means arrival, so each year we anticipate: Christ's return, John the Baptist's call to preparation and repentance, and the incarnation that brings God into skin and solidarity with the world through Jesus. At the same time, we celebrate the advent of Jesus Christ in the Word that is read, preached, prayed, and sung, as well as his advent in Holy Communion.

Silence will be kept at various times during worship to emphasize the waiting aspect of the season of Advent and to slow us down at a time of year when events outpace our sensibilities.

May Advent worship strengthen us in faith and embolden us to live the radical grace that proclaims the good news of Jesus by our words and actions.

8 a.m. worship is being livestreamed. Our 10:30 a.m. worship with the children's Christmas pageant will be recorded for viewing later. This removes the possibility of clips of our children inadvertently going viral with a verbal or physical mishap.

Sign the worship slip and place it in the offering plate so that hospitality, prayer, and pastoral care may be kept up to date.

Prelude • "Voluntary in g minor" -Samuel Wesley

Welcome

GATHERING *

Week after week, God calls us together to hear God's word and receive Christ's meal—to then be sent back into the world. We gather not on the Sabbath day, but on the day after; Sunday is the day of Resurrection.

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands.

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ♥ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection. The people may kneel.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers alone and turn away from our neighbors. We trust false promises and cling to false comforts. We grow fearful.

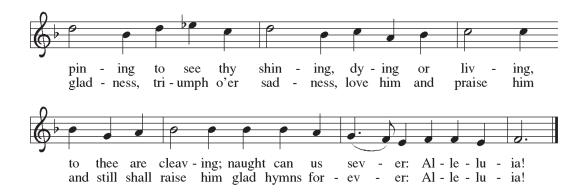
God in our midst, bring your mercy to birth in us. Still our minds with your holy peace. Infuse our hearts with your advent hope.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the grace of God is yours, and your sins are forgiven through ♣ Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn • ELW 867: In Thee Is Gladness

IN DIR IST FREUDE





Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

Greeling

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience as we wait to welcome Jesus.

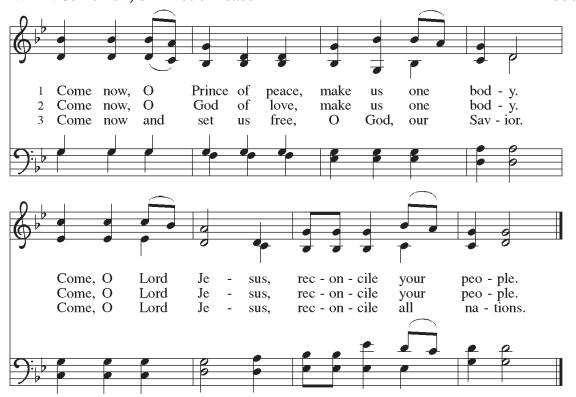
O people of wonder, come,

let us travel on God's holy way and enter God's presence with singing. Amen.

Following the Advent wreath lighting, the assembly is invited to sing.

ELW 247: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

OSOSŎ



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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WORD *

As Lutherans, we understand that the Word of God is proclaimed in scripture, sermon, song, and prayer, bringing God's Good News (Gospel) into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

First Reading • Zephaniah 3:14–20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm • Isaiah 12:2-6

Antiphon: (sung by choir) In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Bold verses are sung by all using the tone above.

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.
- ³ With joy you | will draw water from the wells | of salvation. Antiphon
- ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously; let this be known in | all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. Antiphon

Second Reading • Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

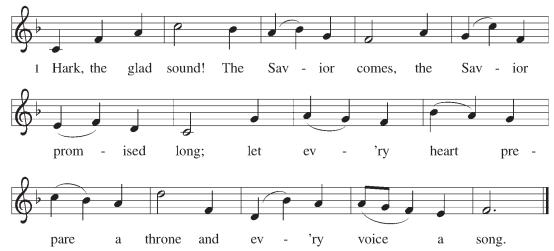
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Tesus.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation • ELW 239: Hark, the Glad Sound





Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Gospel • Luke 3:7-20

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

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

The assembly is seated.

Sermon • Pastor Caitlin Trussell

Silence is kept for reflection.

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day • ELW 249: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

PUER NOBIS



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

A Retirement Blessing & Prayer of Thanksgiving for the ministry of Sue Ann Glusenkamp, Faith Community Nurse of Augustana Lutheran Church

We thank Jesus who is present as we gather today in friendship and love to acknowledge our appreciation for the service and dedication of Sue Ann, our Faith Community Nurse. Through her ministry over the past five years, we have experienced God's healing presence with so many of our members. Her leadership has become a visible light of knowledge, advocacy, empowerment, comfort, healing and care for our church.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

Leader: We give thanks to God for Sue Ann's unique talents of leadership and healing, professionalism and faith. We pray you will continue to shower her with the gifts necessary to build God's kingdom.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

We thank you for Sue Ann's openness to hear your voice calling her to this ministry. We pray that each of us be able to hear the still small voice of God as we are called to serve.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

We thank you for Sue Ann's light shining in her energy, enthusiasm, and faithfulness. We pray that we see the light of God within us and that we share that light.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

We thank God for Sue Ann's compassion. Her thoughtfulness, prayers, and singing are a gift. We pray to be instruments of Christ's compassion.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

We give thanks to God for the community of this church who believes in the ministry of healing and brings that belief into action.

We thank and praise you, Lord.

Sue Ann: Scripture: "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do, be done in Love!" (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Community Blessing:

May God go with you in goodness and love, filling your body, mind, and spirit. May God's light shine from your heart. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with these words: "Peace be with you."

The assembly is seated.

MEAL *

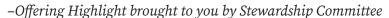
In the meal of bread and wine we are forgiven, sustained, and become what we receive: we are the body of Christ to be God's presence in the world for love, justice, and healing.

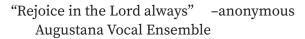
Offering

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2

As we eagerly anticipate the "light" that was prophesied, we give thanks to you for the ongoing generosity which has enabled the ministries of Augustana





Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.

Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,

let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,

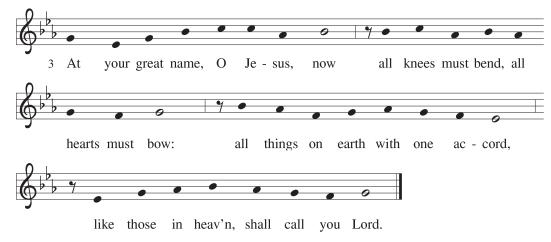
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

-Philippians 4:4-7

The assembly stands.

Offering Response • ELW 245: Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



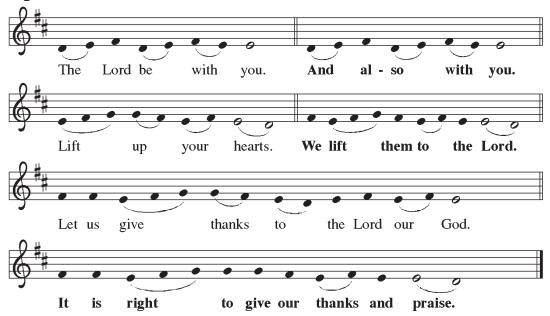
Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Offertory Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW 192: Holy, Holy, Holy



Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Eucharistic 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.

Diseased 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.

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 the wilderness, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Holy Communion

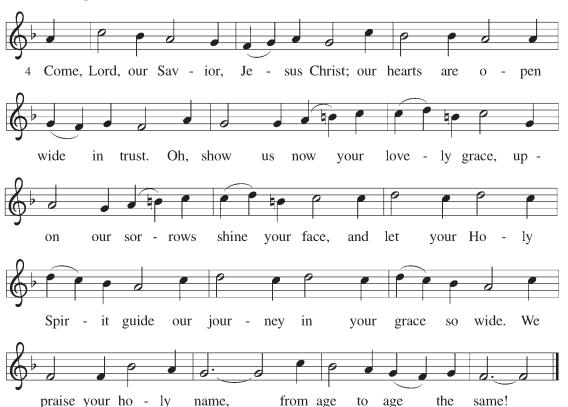
The assembly is seated.

We trust that the love of Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of holy communion. All adults, and children of any age with parental permission, are welcome to commune—both those present in person and on livestream.

- The ushers will invite you into the center aisle to receive gluten-free bread from the server.
- Receive wine (darker color) or grape juice (lighter color) from the server, place the empty cup in the basket or empty tray, and return to your seat.
- If you desire a blessing rather than communion, please approach the servers with your arms crossed.
- If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher so that communion may be brought to you in the pew.

ELW 259: Fling Wide the Door

MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Communion Anthem

"There Is No Rose of Such Virtue" –Simon Andrews Augustana Vocal Ensemble

Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu; alleluia!

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space; alleluia!

Now leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth, alleluia!

—traditional English carol

Blessing after Communion

The assembly stands.

May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for shining your light through us. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us now to bring hope to a weary world. **Amen.**

* SENDING *

The Church cannot be contained within these walls. Through word and meal, the living Christ encounters us in this place, and we are empowered for ministry. God sends us as bearers of hope into a struggling world.

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God our hope for today and tomorrow,
♣ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

During the Sending Hymn, please turn and face the processional cross as it leaves the sanctuary, facing the back of the sanctuary for the dismissal.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Dismissal Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

Postlude • "Voluntary in d minor" -Samuel Wesley

You are welcome to sit by the organ console during the postlude.

Flowers for worship today are given in honor of Sue Ann Glusenkamp's ministry at Augustana.



Welcome!

- How good to have you here! Thanks for signing the worship registration slip and placing it in the offering plate.
- Large-print copies of the service bulletin are available from Augustana's ushers.
- Hearing assistance headphones are available for worship in the sanctuary.
 Ask an usher for an easy-to-use device for enhanced listening during 10:30 a.m. worship.
- You are welcome to have your water bottles with you during worship.
- Activity bags for children are available just outside of Christ Chapel. On the south side of the Sanctuary, children are welcome to borrow items from the Worship & Wiggle shelf. Please return the items after worship. Childcare is available in the nursery, 9 a.m.-noon, for newborns through children age 5, and the Cozy Corner is available to parents at the west sanctuary entrance. Changing tables are available in the men's bathroom and in the family bathroom on this floor.
- Faith Formation for all children and youth is available Sundays, 9:30–10:15 a.m., in the education building. Adult Forum is offered 9:15–10:15 a.m.
- Secure online gifts may be made through the Giving page at Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.
- Restrooms and water stations are located downstairs beneath the west entrance; handicapped accessible restrooms are on the east side of the sanctuary in the hallway behind the chancel.
- An elevator is available at the Fairfax Street entrance.
- Accessible seating for people with assistive health and mobility devices is available on the south side of the sanctuary.
- Handicapped parking and entrances are available at the Fairfax Street and Elm Street entrances. Additional parking is available on the south side of the building.
- The Ammerman Library is open and staffed every Sunday.
- Please make sure your cell phones are silenced during worship.
- Parents, for the safety and well-being of all our children, we ask that you attend your children at all times.
- If you would like to leave your bulletin for recycling, please place it at the end of the pew.

Worship Ministries

Acolyte:

10:30 a.m. Elise Earhart

Advent Prayers:

8 a.m. A.J. Levy Morgan Levy

10:30 a.m. Nathaniel, Josie, River, & Eden

Cockrell

George & Julie Cotton

Altar Guild:

December Bill Crossen

Rhonda Crossen

Bus Driver:

Tim Libby

Cantor:

Blake Nawa`a

Choristers Accompanist:

Sharon Schillereff

Communion Bread:

December Ron Glusenkamp

Communion:

8 a.m. Roger Lipker 10:30 a.m. Julie Churchill Katherine Cruson

Communion Linens:

December Kathy Edstrom

Crucifer:

10:30 a.m. Caroline Stratton

Greeters:

10:30 a.m. Kevin & Janet Flesch

Library:

Billie Wolter

Prayers:

Todd Engdahl

Readers:

8 a.m. Kirsten Lamphere

10:30 a.m. Don Troike

Ushers:

8 a.m. Lisa Boe-Sims

Kirsten Lamphere

10:30 a.m. Griffin Brown

Robert Brown Emmett Cruson Jordan Ourada Rosalee Wanchisen Lance Wheeland

Advent banners created by Ken Phillips, Denver fabric artist specializing in liturgical hangings.

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Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship

- Worship in person at 8 a.m. in Christ Chapel or at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Join Augustana on our Facebook page or YouTube channel for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org) for links, downloadable worship resources, and past worship recordings.

Staff

Senior Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Assisting Pastor (interim): Karen Ullestad Assisting Pastor (interim): Kent Mueller Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Deacon Shanna VanderWel

Nursery Attendant: Mary Beth Brown

Faith Community Nurse: Sue Ann Glusenkamp

Director of Music and Organist:

Andrew Peters

Chancel Choir Director: Kevin Padworski

Augustana Vocal Ensemble:

Emily Murdock, Bella Mallow, Blake Nawa`a, Keith Williamson

Choristers and Cantabile Director:

Angela Howard

Finance Administrator: William Crossen

Building Systems Administrator:

Christine Peters

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum **Interim Office Administrator:** Janice Schulz **AV Technicians:**

Alice Alister and Jesse Crone

Facility Manager: Craig Tamminga

Building and Grounds Manager:

Asmir Hodzic

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby, Pam Uyemura

Augustana Early Learning Center Director: Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Heidi Johnson

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Augustana Early Learning Center: 303-388-7012

Prayer Network for Critical Illness and Emergencies: 303-388-4678