



Third Sunday of Advent

"Just a Little Christmas"

December 17, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Sundays before Christmas. Advent means arrival. Each year we anticipate the incarnation that brings God in 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. We sing, "Come Emmanuel," which means, "God with us," as the Advent candles are lit.

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.

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 No.1 in C Major" –George F. Handel

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who promises to draw near to us. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection. The people may kneel.

Everlasting God, **you love justice, kindness, and humility. We confess the fear, greed, and self-absorption that make us reluctant workers for your kingdom. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of the world you love. Amen.**

In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's mercy rests upon us all. **Amen.**

For the Gathering Hymn, please turn toward the back of the sanctuary as the processional cross enters, and turn toward the front of the sanctuary as the cross passes you.



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Greeting

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 words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as this light grows,
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.
Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your wonders near at hand.
We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
your promised child, God with us. **Amen.**

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

ACS 902: **Come Now, O God**

LOST IN THE NIGHT



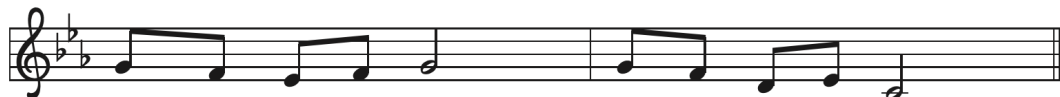
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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First Reading ♦ Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The 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;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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.

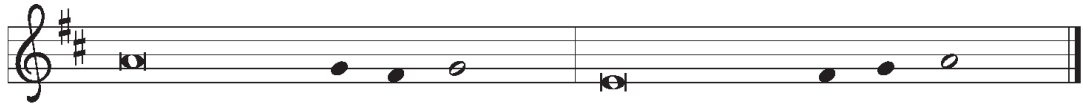
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm ♦ Psalm 126

Antiphon: (*sung by choir*) The Lord has done great things for us.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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Bold verses are sung by all using the tone above.

¹When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”

³**The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.**

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. *Antiphon*

⁵**Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.**

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. *Antiphon***

Second Reading ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

A reading from First Thessalonians.

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

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ♦ ACS 998: **In Silence We Wait**

The assembly stands.
IN SILENCE WE WAIT



Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957
Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters
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Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

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

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

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

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

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

The assembly sings the Gospel Acclamation again.

The assembly is seated.

Faith Formation Christmas Pageant ♦ **“Just a Little Christmas”** – Sharon Kay Chatwell

Directed by Nancy Nyhus, Alayna Nelson and Heather Nelson

Narrators: Grace, Amelia, River, Hattie, Fifi

Angels: Jasper, Marian, Eden, Cora

Mary: Scarlett

Joseph: Stanley

Emperor: Cora

Herod: Andrew

Wisewomen: Lillian E., Lillian C., Aspen

Shepherds: Stella, Madelyn, Hazel

Soldiers: Arlo, Robert, Ollie

Animals: Anna, Reina, Matthias, Grey, Ava

Special thanks to **Tim Garrington** for piano accompaniment and to the **Chancel Choir** for contributing their voices.

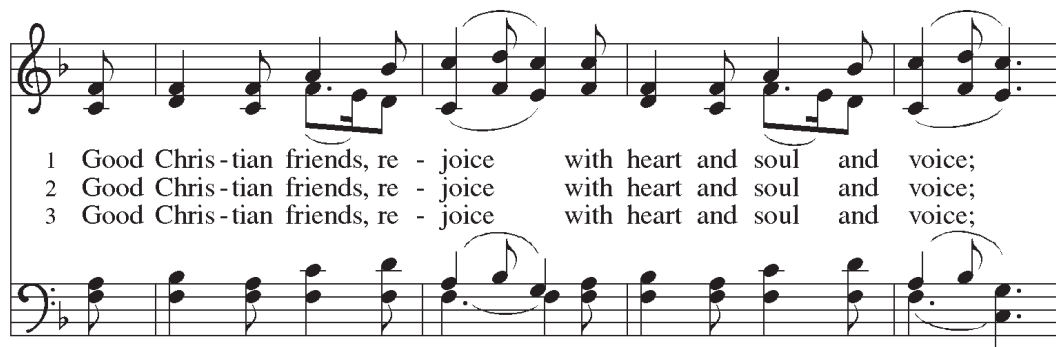
Hymn of the Day • ELW 288: **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

The assembly stands.

IN DULCI JUBILO

Stanza 1: children and choir

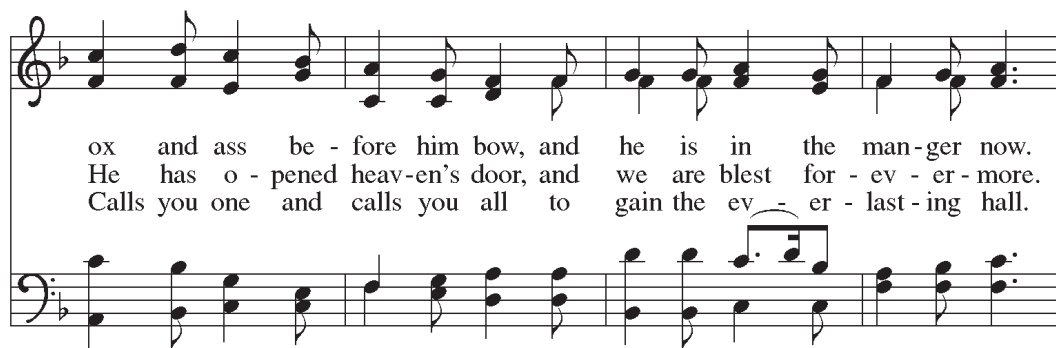
Stanzas 2–3: ALL



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peace

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

The assembly is seated.

Offering

This morning the children and youth will present their Christmas program during 10:30 a.m. worship. Our offering helps support the ministry of our volunteers and of Deacon Shanna VanderWel and her work with children, youth, and families.



**"Prepare the Way of the Lord" –William Rowan
Chancel Choir**

**Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his path.
Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all shall see it together.
Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his path.**

–Isaiah 40:4–5

Offering Response ♦ ELW 294

CRANHAM



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

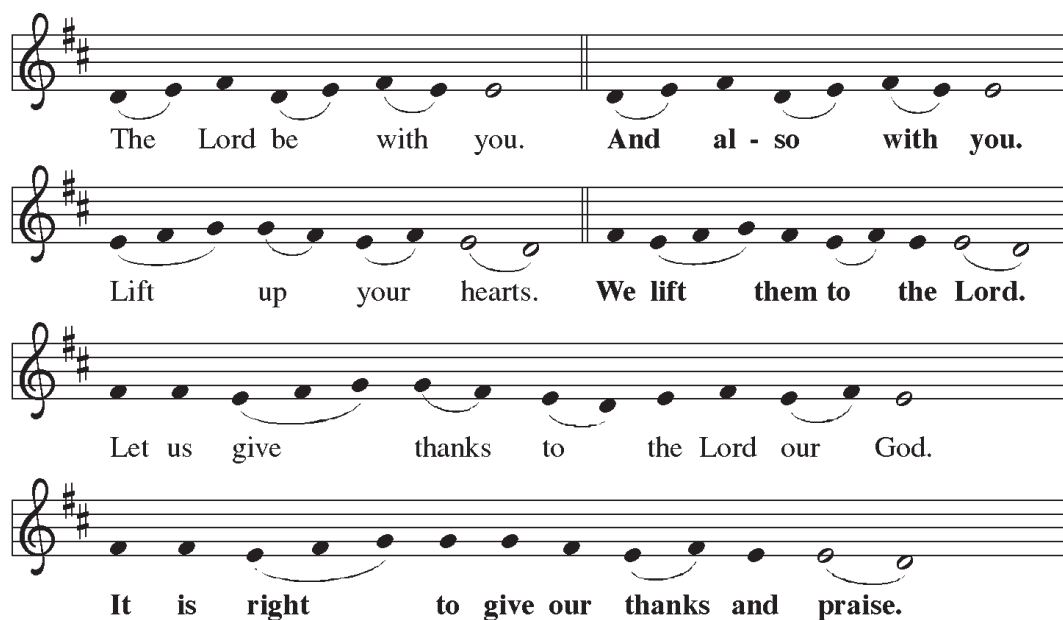
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Offertory Prayer

Holy One, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



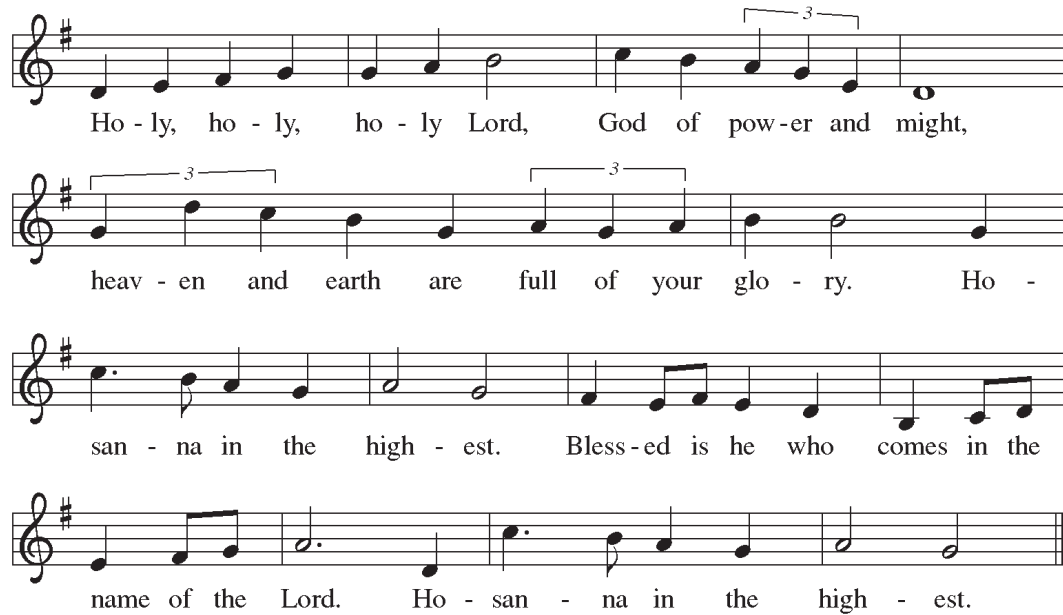
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.
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.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy Light in the darkness,
Word of God incarnate,
Peace that passes all understanding,
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.**

The assembly is seated.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning. We share this meal with confidence in Christ's real presence with us in this sacrament. All the bread used is gluten-free, and both wine and grape juice are available in the tray of glasses. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms when you come forward. (If you are worshipping with us on livestream, you may use bread or crackers and wine or juice from your home.)

If you have difficulty coming forward, please tell an usher, and Communion will be brought to you. We will receive Communion together after the singing of the Lamb of God.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528



1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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

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“Deus tu” –Joseph Rheinberger Augustana Vocal Ensemble

Deus tu convertens vivificabis nos, et plebs tua laetabitur in te.

Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

Ostende nobis Domine misericordiam tuam.

Show us, Lord, Your mercy.

“Benedixisti” –Joseph Rheinberger

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam, avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

You blessed, Lord, your land, you turned aside the captivity of Jacob.

Remisisti iniquitatem plebis tuae.

You forgave the iniquity of your people.

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, **in bread and cup you have revealed your glory.**

**Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of
 liberation and hope, brought to birth in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.**

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ ✠ comfort you,
 and the power the Spirit sustain 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.*

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Dismissal

Go in peace and hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Voluntary No. 2 in C Major” –George F. Handel

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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.
- Children are welcome in worship! Children's bulletins and crayons are available on Augustana's entrance tables. Just outside of Christ Chapel and on either side of the sanctuary there are activity bags for children. Please return the bags when worship is finished. 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](https://giving.page.at-augustana.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.
- 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. Finley Zumwalt

Advent Wreath:

8 a.m. Kirstin Lamphere and family
10:30 a.m. Dan, Heidi, Stella, Madelyn, Hazel and Haakon Logsdon

Altar Guild:

December Bill & Rhonda Crossen

Bus Driver:

Michael Graham

Communion Bread:

December Robin Hoffman

Communion:

8 a.m. Jim Dierker
10:30 a.m. Karen Bourg
Katherine Cruson

Communion Linens:

December Ellen Kastens

Crucifer:

10:30 a.m. Max Johnson

Greeters:

10:30 a.m. Ken and Aaron Beazer

Library:

Linda Crow

Livestream Assistant:

Paul Blanchard

Pageant Accompanist:

Tim Garrington

Prayers:

Todd Engdahl

Readers:

8 a.m. Robin Hoffman
10:30 a.m. Angie Ourada

Ushers:

8 a.m. Lisa Boe-Sims
10:30 a.m. Griffin Brown
Robert Brown
Emmett Cruson
Rosalee Wanchisen
Jordan Ourada
Lance Wheeland

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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

Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Bridge Pastor: Gail Mundt

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

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

Administrator of Volunteer Ministry and

Building Use: Julie MacDougall

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Alice Alister and Jesse Crone

Facility Manager: Craig Tamminga

Building and Grounds Manager:

Asmir Hodzic

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy

Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Lisa Boe-Sims

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

Dial-a-Care, Pre-recorded Daily Devotions:

303-996-2733