

Augustana Lutheran Church

2100 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2007

TEN-THIRTY A.M.

We welcome all friends and visitors this morning to Augustana Lutheran Church, a congregation "Reconciled in Christ" that has been racially diverse since 1954. Please sign the guest register in the narthex and fill out the Attendance Registration booklet located in the pews. We invite you to join us for hospitality following the Celebration.

A nursery is available for children up to five years old; see an usher for information. After receiving Holy Eucharist, children meet their Sunday School teachers at the Truman Door.

THE PREPARATION AND ENTRANCE RITE

Voluntary

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

The Congregation stands as the bells are rung.

The Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us. **Amen**

As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of steadfastness and love, **we confess that we love the works of darkness more than your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through you, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet we fail to see our own failings. We ignore the cries of the poor and grow weary of working for justice. Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Amen**

Hear the glad tidings of God! The Word was made flesh and lived among us. Clothed

now and forever. Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalmody

Luke 1:47-55



1. Sure - ly it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
2. Make God's deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed name.



For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing help is near.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might pro - claim.



So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's heal - ing spring;
Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell,



in the day of your de - liv' - rance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
in your ver - y midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Gradual

**O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Before the Gospel is read:



After the Gospel is read:



At the Returning Procession

**O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Sermon

The Congregation stands.

Hymn of the Day, No. 249

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Nicene Creed

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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

Each petition concludes with one of the following responses:

God of mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always

And also with you.

Anthem, at the Offering

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

The Congregation stands.

Offertory Hymn, No. 259 – Stanza 3

Stanza 3.

Fling Wide the Door

Offertory Verse and Prayer

The Lord says, I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant.. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God of abundance, **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving



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

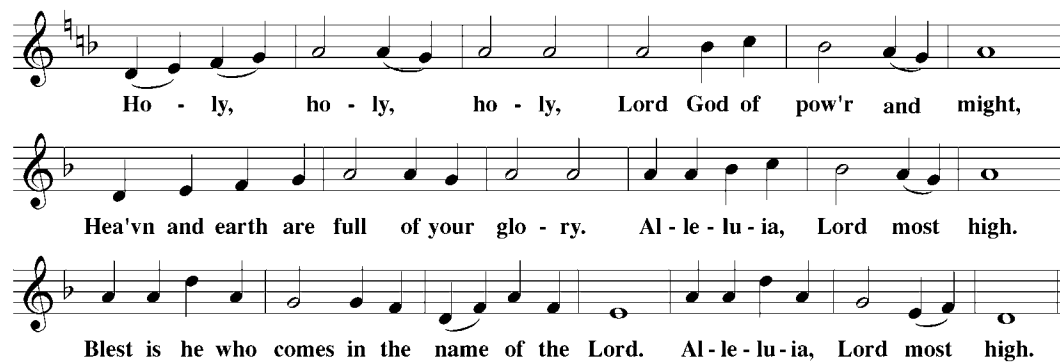


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



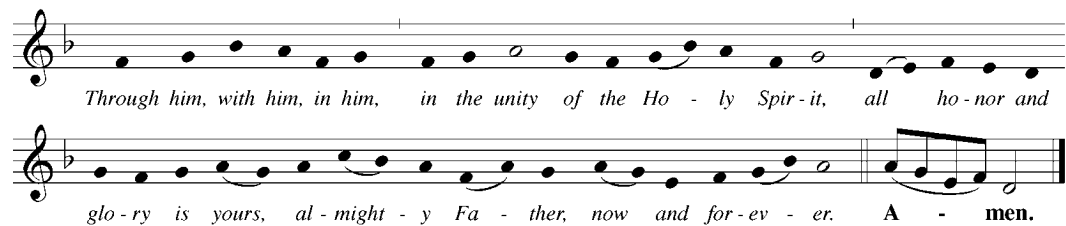
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface and Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Hea'vn and earth are full of your glo - ry. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high.

Eucharistic Prayer and Doxology



*Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all ho - nor and
glo - ry is yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men.*

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be— your name, your king-dom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to-day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for- give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the
 time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king-dom,
 the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Agnus Dei

The Dona nobis pacem (“Grant us Thy peace”) is sung in canon: first by the Choir, then the Pulpit side, then the Lectern side.



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa-cem, do-na no - bis pa - cem.
 Do - na no - bis pa-cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - cem.
 Do - na no - bis pa-cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - cem.

The Distribution of the Blessed Sacrament

All Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament.

Non-communicants are invited to come forward to receive a blessing

THE POST-COMMUNION

The Congregation stands.

Eucharistic Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.

Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benediction

Hymn, No. 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

The congregation turns to face the entrance of the church as the Procession passes.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Voluntary

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

The Music of the Liturgy – The “O Antiphons” sung at the Gospel Procession date from the ninth century and were chanted, one each day, at Vespers before and after the Magnificat from December 17 to 23. Each antiphon opens with an ‘O,’ addressing the Messiah with one of his scriptural titles, and closes with a petition appropriate to the title. During the twelfth century these antiphons were collected into Latin verse and in the nineteenth century translated and compiled into the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”



Servants at God's Altar

Celebrant and Preacher	Norm Theiss
Deacon I	Rich Gillam
Deacon II	Patricia Richter
Lector	Judy Floy
Organist and Choirmaster	Dr. J. Thomas Mitts
The Parish Choir	
Crucifer	Isaac Sorenson
Bookbearer	Ruth Sorenson
Torchbearers	Carolyn Gist, Lars Sorenson
Ushers	Wayne Maffett, Eileen Crawford
Altar Guild	Alice Anderson, Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson
Tellers	Kevin Horsted, Betsy Knauff., Eileen Crawford
Hospitality Hour Hosts	Larry Anthony, Ron Mueller, Catherine Cashner

Parish Concerns

In our prayers, let us include the following:

+ **Members:** Aaron Bonds, Pearl Cox, Celia Davenport, Herman Davis, Sr, Dorothy Gladney, Renee Ivory, Jennifer Nordin, Bill Reid, Don Werner.

+ **Friends and Family:** Bill Barrows (Richter); Jeffrey Berry (Bob & Alice Anderson); Connie Boorer (Hunter); Edith Bowers (Bowers); Judith Bremner (Bradley); Melissa & Kevin Brown (Larisch); Judy Cashner (Cashner); The Cocozzella Family (Wassum) Teresa Cross (Knauff); Mindy Davis (Isbell); Ray “Bud” Erickson (Kennedy-Nash); Robert Kyle Evans (Schipp); Lyle Forness (Forness); Patricia Franks (Knauff); Pat Frohman (Hunter); Betty Grady (Werner); Leona Harper (Knauff); Mary Elizabeth Jacobs (Berube); Denise Kellam (Bucci); Sara Kepple (Richter); John Larson (Kahler-Larson); Randell Laughlin (Theiss); Sylvia Luttamus (Luttamus); Ann Lockwood (Werner); Frank & Celeste Lotz (Knauff); Ken Merritt (Hunter); Bruno Muzzi (Markle-Elder); Chris Nelson (Burch-Nelson); Fernando Otero (Pizza); Marion Papacosta (Roth-Renne); Susan Papp (Lenhart/Ray); Rachelle Portner (Hart); Mary Ann Richardson (Kennedy-Nash); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Norma Shirey (Hart); Iris and Juan Sosa (Leath); Deborah Tang (Burton); Caleb Richter-Tate (Richter); Nancy Telford (Richter); Richard Tepel (Schipp); Marion Wagley (Capps); Joan Wassum (Wassum); Nellikan Wernicke (Baerwald); Cay and John Wiant (Larisch); Pamela Wilson (Markle-Elder); Joleita Yurchak (Roth-Renne).

+ **The Augustana Call Committee:** Ruth Sorenson, Chair, Josephine Allen, Brian Danaher, Robert (Chip) Fenton, LeeAnn Hart, Tommie Robinson, Jr., and Rebecca Roth, *ex officio*.

Names remain on the prayer list for four weeks and may be renewed by notifying the office.

Gifts to the Glory of God: Today’s Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Kevin Canfield and Robert Bennett.

Join the Mortgage Madness Rush! Advent is here, and with the beginning of a new church year, renewal of our Mortgage Madness Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of members and friends – including \$5000 donated in recent weeks in memory of Ardelle Burton – we surpassed our goal of covering our monthly mortgage payments this past year and will be able to begin paying down the principal on our mortgage (more on that later). Now we need to match our generous giving of the past year by reaching and again surpassing our goal of raising \$120,000 to cover a year’s mortgage payments. Already two generous donors have agreed each to cover one month’s payment of \$10,000, so we’re on our way. Any amount – small or large – can be contributed, clearly designated for

Accessibility. Some possible benchmarks: \$333 = one day; \$2,500 = one week; \$5,000 = two weeks; and \$7,500 = three weeks. Contributed last week: \$4,999.00

Many thanks to all who have pledged to Augustana's 2008 Mission Plan. As of December 9, 49 member units had pledged a total of \$177,448.96. Weekly pledges range from \$2.00 to \$325.00, resulting in an average weekly pledge of \$69.64. If you have not yet pledged, please return your pledge card and time & talent form ASAP in the Sunday offering or mail to the church office. **We need your commitment.**

Augustana's Social Ministry Committee is pleased to report to the congregation that we have **raised \$800** this year for the Augustana Food Pantry, which will allow us to apply for a matching grant for the same amount from Thrivent for Lutherans. Thank you to all those who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

-- Today – The Third Sunday of Advent --

Adult Forum: 9:15 a.m. – Library -- "Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love."

Nursery Program: 10:30 – Noon – Jesus is Born

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: After receiving Communion, the children exit via the Truman Door for their Classrooms – Rooms 303a and 303b.

Food donations for our holiday baskets and the Food Pantry are greatly appreciated and will be received throughout the month of December. (See Pink Insert for shopping list)

Gifts of Hope – Social Hall during the Hospitality Hour

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, Chocolate in the Social Hall during the Hospitality Hour

Christmas Flowers and Greens: Donations being accepted by Worship and Music Committee during the Hospitality Hour. (See Pink Insert for 2007 Donation Form)

Listening: Practicing Simple Presence meeting – Library – 1:00 pm

Vespers and Lucia Fest: 5:00 p.m. Plan to attend Vespers and Augustana's Lucia Fest tonight. A beautifully meditative Vespers service precedes the children's program. Lucia Fest is an Augustana tradition for more than 45 years in the Swedish tradition it is a celebration for all to enjoy. All Augustana youth are invited to participate as Nissen, Star Boys, Lucia Queen and her court, banner bearers and more! As we gather in the spectacularly decorated Social Hall for a reception of Swedish inspired treats, the children continue the festive spirit as they invite all attending to enjoy the Lucycat buns!!

-- This Week --

Wednesday, December 19th – Congregational Council Meeting – 7:30 pm – Library

Thursday, December 20th: Choir rehearsal – 7:30 p.m. – Choir Room

-- Next Sunday, December 23, 2007 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent --

Adult Forum: 9:15 a.m. – Library – “Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love.”

Nursery Program: 10:30 – Noon – Jesus is born

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Lessons:

Hospitality Hosts: Betsy Knauff, Chris Vierling

Special Sunday School Program during the Hospitality Hour.

- Upcoming Events and Misc. Announcements -

Church Council Nominating Committee: There are four openings for the Church Council in 2008. If you are interested in running for Church Council, please contact John Isbell at jsi34@msn.com or 703-244-6968 by December 16th.

Today is the Final Day for Gifts of Hope: As is our annual tradition, we will once again this holiday season offer members of Augustana the opportunity to select some unique Christmas gifts – gifts that provide for daily needs, gifts that build for the future, and gifts that bring joy. Among the beneficiaries this year are N Street Village, National Lutheran Home, Community Family Life Services, Fellowship Square Foundation, Lutheran Churches in Namibia, the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, Lutheran Social Services, Transitional Housing Corporation, Southeast Ministry, Mar-Lu-Ridge and the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Gifts range greatly and include such items as a trip to the beauty shop, a basket of books, bus tokens, resettlement kits, a university scholarship, a week of summer camp, bed liners, ice cream treats and many others.

We have a special opportunity to support the construction of a permanent building for a kindergarten in northern Namibia. This is the home area of Augustana’s own Iipumbu family. They have requested support from Augustana for this worthy effort. Currently, the kindergarten now meets in a tent under a tree. The class of kids is growing and they need a permanent building. Your contribution will support the purchase of windows, doors, and cement blocks. There are so many ways to make a difference with Gifts of Hope!

Please see Grace Morgan during the hospitality hour to make your selections. This is a wonderful way to get started on your holiday shopping.

Calling all Chess Players or Tutors: Patrick Shaw, Head of School for the Academy for the Advancement of Learning (ALTA) our tenant has asked for help with their chess club. They currently have about a dozen 5th and 6th graders who are avid chess players. They are looking for volunteers to help with their chess club and the students. Help is needed either at

lunch time 11:30 am to 1:00 pm or after school from 4:30-6:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in assisting ALTA with their chess program, please call Mrs. Mitchell at 202/232-4014.



During the Sundays of Advent, Adult Forum will feature a special Bible study, "Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love." The series will examine the special meaning of Advent as a time of quiet waiting, self-reflection, and devotion in anticipation of the coming of Christ. Each week will focus on a special theme that will illuminate the simplicity and harmony of the season (in contrast to the hectic busy-ness of the pre-Christmas period) and provide us with a renewed appreciation for this time of preparation. Adult Forum meets at 9:15 a.m. in the library.



December 16, 2007
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING:

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the

name of the Lord.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the
name Jesus, because he will
save his people from their sins.**



M a t t h e w 1 : 2 1

Augustana Lutheran Church

“It is the purpose of Augustana Lutheran Church to engage as many persons as will share its confession of faith in a fellowship of worship, learning, witness and service that the Word of God in Jesus Christ may become effective in their lives together and individually and relate effectively in Christian concern and love to the geographic community within which the Church is located.”

Augustana Lutheran Church

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(202) 234-5312 – Voicemail – (202) 234-5724 – FAX

<http://www.Augustanadc.org>

Office@Augustanadc.info (email)

The Rev. Norman C. Theiss, Interim Pastor

Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, Organist and Choir Director

William R. Riggs, Office Administrator

Marcial Pacheco, Building Maintenance Supervisor

Deborah Young, Nursery Attendant

2007 Congregational Council

Larry Anthony, Secretary – Judi Bucci –

Ben Cutler – Irene Heinemeier – Matt Larson

John McKirgan – Patricia Richter –

Rebecca Roth, Vice President

Barbara Solt – Arne Sorenson

Tom VandenBosch

Parents: A nursery is available for children up to five years old.

See an usher for directions

Parking is available at the Reeves Center – 14th & U Streets

Please enter on U Street. From 10 am – 4 pm on Sundays

First Come, First Served

