

Augustana Lutheran Church

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Gerald Near

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 in our humanity, Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters and claims us as beloved children of God through our baptism. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to wholeness; in him we are free to serve God and our neighbor without fear. **Amen**

Entrance Hymn

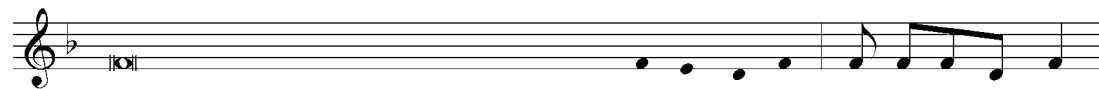


1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make here Thy home!
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it of our God
3. Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child Of the Vir - gin un - de - filed!
4. Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, Grac - ing his cre - a - ted spheres;
5. Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er sin the vic - tory won,



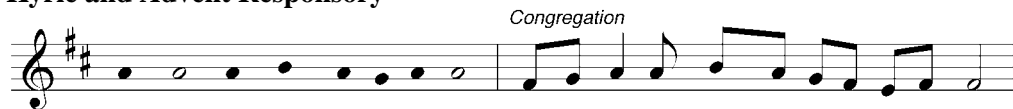
Mar - vel now, both heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
Was the Word of God made flesh, Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
Might - y God and Ma - ry's son, Ea - ger now his race to run!
Hence to death and hell de - scends, Then the heav'n - ly throne a - scends.
Bound-less shall your king - dom be; Grant that we its glo - ries see.

Apostolic Greeting



*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,* be with you all. **And al - so with you.**

Kyrie and Advent Responsory



Re-joice, O daugh-ter of Zi-on, **and ex-ult, O daugh-ter of Je-ru-sa-lem!**

Behold! the Lord shall appear, and He will not deceive;
if he delay, wait for him, for he will come and he will not tarry.



The Lord, our com - ing King, **has - ten to a - dore Him.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Let us pray ... A - men.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalmody

Hymn No. 251

Luke 1:47-55
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Gradual

**O Come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Before the Gospel is read:



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the — chap-ter. Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read:



The Gos-pel of the Lord. Praise — to you, O Christ.

At the Returning Procession

**O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Sermon

The Congregation stands.

Hymn of the Day, No. 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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 man.**

**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

Anthem, at the Offering

O Sanctissima

Sicilian Mariner's Hymn

The Congregation stands.

Offertory Hymn, No. 259 – Stanza 4

Fling Wide the Door

Offertory Verse and Prayer

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord, your God, is in your midst; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

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



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.



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.

Voluntary

Lo, How a Rose

Johannes Brahms

Hymn, No. 272

Lo, How A Rose Is Growing

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. 267

Joy to the World

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!

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.”



4th Sunday
in Advent

Servants at God's Altar

Celebrant and Preacher	Norman Theiss
Deacon I	David Juilfs
Deacon II	Kathy Garrison
Lector	Larry Anthony
Organist and Choirmaster	Dr. J. Thomas Mitts
The Parish Choir	
Crucifer	Douglas Anderson
Bookbearer	Caroline Borders
Torchbearers	Chantelle Agbro, Monique Agbro
Ushers	Wayne Maffett, Eileen Crawford
Altar Guild	Alice Anderson, Salome Burton, Marilynn Olson
Tellers	Peter Berube, Mary Andoh, Tim Himes
Hospitality Hour Hosts	Betsy Knauff, Chris Vierling

Parish Concerns

In our prayers, let us include the following:

+ **Members:** Aaron Bonds, Pearl Cox, Celia Davenport, Herman Davis, Sr, Dorothy Gladney, Renee Ivery, 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); 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); Rachele Portner (Hart); Mary Ann Richardson (Kennedy-Nash); Veronica Richardson (Knauff); Dave & Chris Sharp (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).

+ **In Thanksgiving and Joy** with Jennifer Nordin and Sandy Soundararajan on the birth of a baby boy on Thursday, December 19th at Georgetown University Hospital.

+ **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.

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: \$20,992

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.**

Please complete your 2007 pledge by year's end. We count on 2007 pledges to balance our budget. Additional gifts help us to meet unanticipated needs.

Please note: The Augustana Church office will close at 3:00 pm on Monday, December 31st. To be sure that your gifts are credited to 2007 payments *must* be received or postmarked by December 31st. **To ensure the deductibility of your gifts to Augustana, please do not file your 2007 tax returns until you have received your year-end statement.** The Internal Revenue Service warns that you may lose the deduction for some donations if you file your tax returns before receiving written acknowledgement of your charitable contributions. Year-end statements that comply with all tax law requirements will be mailed by our Financial Secretary Jon Quam before the end of January.

Thank You to our newsletter volunteers who helped to prepare the newsletter for mailing last week. Those assisting with that effort were Josephine Allen, Novella Bradley, Salome Burton, Carol Capps, Pearl Cox, Ruth Hunter, Betsy Knauff, Chuck Leath, Ingrid Margrave and Carol Vezzetti. **A special thank you** to our weekly office volunteers, Salome Burton, Ingrid Margrave and Betsy Knauff.

Pastor and staff wish all a Merry Christmas, and a blessed holiday season filled with joy, love and peace.

-- Today – The Fourth Sunday of Advent --

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

Nursery Program: 10:30 – Noon

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Today there will be a Christmas Celebration for all of our kids and our congregation, during Hospitality Hour after worship. We'll sing carols, eat Christmas cookies, learn about some Christmas traditions, with audience participation, and we have a little gift for each child.

Please come and enjoy a holiday fellowship with us!

-- This Week --



Monday, December 24, 2007 – 10:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols with Eucharist

Tuesday, December 25, 2007 – 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Day Service

-- Next Sunday, December 30, 2007 – The First Sunday of Christmas--

Adult Forum: will not meet -- **Sunday School** will not meet

Nursery Program: 10:30 – Noon

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Lessons: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Hospitality Hosts: Betsy Knauff

- Upcoming Events and Misc. Announcements -

Sunday School will resume January 13th January 6th will be our Three Kings Day celebration during Hospitality Hour.

Church Council Nominating Committee: There are six 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 30th

Mark your calendar for the 2008 retreat! -- Augustana's next congregational retreat is scheduled for February 8th and 9th (the first weekend in Lent) at the Singmaster Center on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. We will be exploring the theme of wilderness as a symbol of the Lenten journey. Further information and details will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletins and the January newsletter.

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 ALTA at 202/232-4014.



December 22, 2007

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SECOND READING:

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." ²

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

