

Welcome to worship at **Augustana** Lutheran Church



December 3, 2017, 8:30 & 9:45 am

Liturgical Season: Advent

What does this mean?

During Advent, we focus on preparation and hope, specifically for the coming of Christ. We ready our hearts and minds for Christ's entry in three different ways: as a baby in a manger over two thousand years ago, in the word and sacraments of the worship community, and in the time that is to come. Advent's color is blue, the color of hope. In hope and expectation, we ready ourselves for the joy of Christ's entry in our lives.

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We're glad you're worshipping with us today! As you enter worship please honor the holiness and prayerfulness of the Sanctuary.

We love having kids in worship! If your child needs a break, our nursery is staffed during the 9:45 am service. Large print bulletins and listening assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Today's Theme: Obedience

God calls us into a life of obedience in order to strengthen our faith in the face of difficult choices.

Prelude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Kristi Sullivan, nyckelharpa

J.S. Bach

Announcements

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes that we would know true peace, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

God of peace, our light and our life, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and reconciliation. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light one Advent candle on each of the four weeks of Advent. These candles symbolize the coming of Christ, bringing light to the darkness. The candles may be blue for Advent, purple for Christ's royal kingship, or white for simplicity and holiness. Traditionally, each candle often represents a piece of the Christmas story or the theological virtues of peace, hope, joy, and love.

Opening Hymn*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW # 256

Kyrie

ELW pg. 147

Prayer of the DayThe Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with lives of faithfulness and courage; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Anthem

8:30 am

I Am Welcome Here in God's House

Pierson

Cherub Choir with Josie Blake, soloist

9:45 am

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

arr. Ferguson

Senior Choir

WORD

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song

Lesson

Daniel 3:13-30

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

The Hymn of Praise ("Glory to God" - the song of the Angels) is omitted during Advent, when we wait for the birth of Christ. This historic song from the Christmas story returns to our liturgy on Christmas Day and throughout Epiphany season.

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Tough Choices

Pastor Mark Aune

Sermon Questions for Reflection:

What would you have done if you were faced with the same choice as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Can you think of a time when you have been faced with a similar choice?

What are you willing to sacrifice so that you do not compromise your relationship with God? Where do you draw that line?

Where are you obedient to God in matters of faith and life and where do find yourself to be disobedient?

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW #250

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.

RESPONSE

A time to respond to God with our gifts and prayers

Offering

Advent Meditation

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Alleluia Bells

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

The Prayers

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

*In the season of Advent we often speak of Jesus as Emmanuel, or "God with us." Many passages in the New Testament, including the traditional Christmas reading of John 1, explain how the creative and generative Word of God took on flesh in Christ Jesus. Jesus **IS** the Word. We remember, therefore, that in hearing a biblical text in worship we are encountering Christ Himself.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving ELW pg. 152

Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg. 153

Words of Institution

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.

Lamb of God ELW pg. 154

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn *Hark! the Glad Sound* ELW #239

Communion Prayer

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with your gift of life. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Make us confident in you alone, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

The Holy Spirit sends us into the world

Benediction

The one true God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, give you courage and resilience, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW # 257
st. 1, 3, 4

Postlude *Veni, Emmanuel* Robert Powell
† † †

Following worship we invite you to stop at the Information Center. It is staffed with individuals eager to answer your questions.

You are welcome to pick up our monthly newsletter, Augustana Life, at the Information Kiosk in the Narthex. It is also available online at augustana.com, click on RESOURCES.

Augustana uses the Narrative Lectionary as a basis for our weekly Bible readings. Next week we will read Ezekiel 37:1-14.

The White Rose on the altar is placed there to celebrate the life of Bob Oas who died November 25.

As we begin the season of Advent, Jesus reminds us in John 8, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." We leave worship carrying this light in us and out into the world. Embrace the light of Christ in your life as you take it out into the world and live out your faith this week.

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SERVING TODAY

- Pastor Mark Aune
- Pastor Megan Torgerson
- Intern Kiara Jorgenson
- Dr. Kristina Langlois, Organist
- Kathy Andrews, Senior Choir Director
- Janet Metcalfe, Bell Choir Director
- Lay Readers: 8:30-Jeffrey Thompson, Debra Siebell, Kevin Hamlin
- 9:45-Paul Sherburne, Mary Hayes, David Anderson
- Acolyte: Emma Brown, Henry Huron
- ASL Interpreter: 9:45-Katelyn Wells



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