

Augustana Lutheran Church

135 Atwood Street, Shakopee, Minnesota 55379
Worship: 4:15 PM with Bible Class following the service

General Prayer

Advent 3

December 17, 2017

The Order of Holy Communion:

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Hymns:

- 63 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
75 *Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken*
607 vs. 1-6, 9-11, 15 *Day of Wrath, O Day of Mourning*
91 *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament	<i>The LORD Condemns Ahab</i>	1 Kings 21:17-19
Epistle	<i>Paul Serves All Men</i>	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Gospel	<i>John the Baptist Prepares the Way</i>	Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon		Matthew 3:1-12

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS in the name of Jesus Christ! Augustana Lutheran Church confesses and practices the full truth of God's Word, a heritage passed down to us by Luther, and confirmed in the public confessions of our church. We believe that the Bible in all its parts is inspired by the Holy Spirit, error-free, and the only source of divine revelation and absolute truth. If you have any questions about such Bible doctrine, or about our congregation, please direct them to Pastor King.

O God, thou Shepherd of Israel, who didst lead Israel like a flock, nourishing and sustaining thy people in the hope of deliverance by the word of thy prophets, and who in the fullness of time didst raise up a Horn of Salvation in the house of David, even thy Son Jesus Christ, grant unto us such a vivid faith in thy promises that we may rejoice and give thanks evermore.

Now, O Father, we bring thee our prayers and supplications with thanksgiving. As we have need, send deliverance to renew us in body and soul. Forgive our sins and blot out all our iniquities. Open the eyes of the spiritually blind; if any walk uncertainly, guide him in the pathways of righteousness; if any be impure in thought, word, or deed, cleanse him by thy Spirit; if any be deaf to thy Spirit, open his ears to thy truth, that hearing he may believe and be saved; and if he be dead to thee in his spirit, quicken him by thy mighty power. Let thy Holy Spirit descend upon us, that our faith may persevere until our Lord will come again to judge all mankind.

We pray for thy church everywhere throughout the world. Grant thy blessing to all thy servants who proclaim thy Word to the multitudes. Give aid and strength to all missionaries and accompany thy Word with power, that all may know thee to be the only true God and Savior of men. Rule over the hearts of all men, guide the decisions of those in authority, and sit in the secret councils of nations, to the end that peace and justice may prevail. Help all men to know and believe the doctrine of Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent, that they may learn to please thee in true faith.

Bless all who are gathered this day in the fellowship of the Spirit, especially those here in this place. Be with those of our number who are sick or under any affliction of body, mind, or spirit. Comfort them that they may, through their trials, learn of thy gracious power and readiness to help in every time of need. Endow us all with grace, that we may daily show forth the light of thy Name, and the glorious Gospel of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All these things, and whatever else we need, we beseech of thee in his Name. Amen.

Augustana Lutheran Church

Pastor Bruce King

*Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone*

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017



Augustana Lutheran Church

<http://augustana.us>

The Ministry of the Word

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OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Kings 21:17-19

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who *lives* in Samaria. There *he is*, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. “You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Have you murdered and also taken possession?’” And you shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.”

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel. For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.”

GOSPEL LESSON and SERMON TEXT Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’” And John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”