

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

D - Deacon

A - Assistant

L – Lector

R – Response

We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***GATHERING HYMN** *“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”* Hymn #242

*INVOCATION

We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.

D: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

*GREETING

D: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

R: Blessed be God forever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

D: Let us pray. Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R: Amen.

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

See Insert

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. No 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. And 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9 (*sung responsively*)

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | Lord their God;

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;

who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind;

the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares | for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

The Lord shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

L: A reading from James.

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

***APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

We bow our heads in honor of the mystery of the Incarnation.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

Our heads are raised.

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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**

D: The coming of the Lord is near. We have been encouraged to ask for anything we need, "with prayer and thanksgiving." Therefore, let us pray to the Father.

A brief silence.

A: For all the pastors and deacons of our Church, that they may guide us with sound doctrine, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who teach the Faith, that they may make Christ's words and deeds known to the people with accuracy and enthusiasm, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who live in poverty, that they may know the comforting message of the Word, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the people in our community, that they may be happy, always happy in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the souls of the faithful departed, that they may come to eternal life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

C: Most loving Father, hear the prayers of your people. Guide the world in true peace, and let us serve you in faith. We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **R: Amen.**

Please be seated while the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.

MEAL

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *"A Tiny Child Will Come"* Senior Choir
Please stand as you are able.

***HYMN** *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* Hymn #490

The pre-consecrated Communion elements are placed on the altar for distribution.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

D: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**R: 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.**

***PEACE**

D: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R: And also with you.

D: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Please remain standing after sharing the Peace.

***INVITATION**

Holding the host over the ciborium:

D: This the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

R: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *(for those viewing via live-stream)*

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who acknowledge the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would prefer a blessing come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Beginning with the front pews, form one line and make your way down the center aisle. Please pick up a communion glass from the tray on your right. Receive our Lord Jesus' Body from the Deacon and, according to where you are seated, receive his Precious Blood from the Assistant and consume both elements. Upon receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, respond **Amen**. Please place your used communion glass in the tray on the table and return to your seat by the side aisle. Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

COMMUNION HYMNS

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

Hymn #255

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hymn #311

"He Came Down"

Hymn #253

Please rise at the direction of the Deacon.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *"Now Lord"*

Service Music #201

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

D: Let us pray. God of mercy, may this eucharist bring us your divine help, free us from our sins, and prepare us for the birth of our Savior, who is Lord forever and ever.

R: Amen.

***GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

D: Almighty God,

R: Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

D: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.

D: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

Hymn #239

***DISMISSAL**

D: Go in the peace of Christ.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Presider/Homilist	Deacon Kristen Barnes
Assistant	Sherry Ulsh
Lector	Karen Gussler
Acolyte	Douglass Howard
Communion Assistant	Carol Gordon
Advent Wreath	The Sholder Family
Greeters/Ushers	Joe & Diana Budd
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK

Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Gen Whitehaus
Lector	Brenda Frye
Acolyte	Lexi Frye
Communion Assistant	Don Whitehaus
Advent Wreath	The Frye Family
Greeters/Ushers	Tom & Carol Gordon
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Altar Guild	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING *(November 30, 2022)*

2022 Approved Budget \$255,000

Income: \$215,809.32

Love of Family 2022 Contributions: \$3,647

Expenses: \$225,777.57

Local Food Pantry 2022 Contributions: \$2,226

Capital Improvement 2022 Contributions: \$24,655

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$3,355

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Rick & Linda Blair in honor of Abigail's 8th birthday.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith.
This month we remember *Ralph Gussler and Sara Plouse*

We are looking for knitters. We have a new project in mind and need your help. If your interest has been piqued contact Linda Blair or Sheryl Rozman. Thank you for your help.

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is in the narthex. Please sign up!

This week at Shells:

December 11 at 9am - Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am Children/Youth Sunday School and Confirmation

December 12 at 6:30pm - Bible Study at Shells

December 14 at 6:30pm - Advent Vespers/Evening Prayer @ St. John

December 15 at 7pm - Senior Choir

December 18 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00am Children/Youth Sunday School and Confirmation

Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Hand Chime Choir

Race Track Kit and Altar Guild Cookie Tray Assembly

Decorating of the Sanctuary and Nave

Homebound Christmas Caroling at 5pm

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA

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The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, STS, Pastor

Cell: 717-870-4505

Email: fatherbarnes3@gmail.com

Barbara Dupler, Director of Music

Email: scdbjd@aol.com

Theresa Reidmiller, Administrative Assistant

Email: shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

Charles Schreiber, Treasurer

Email: charlieschreiber@embarqmail.com

Parish Council: Colin Blair, Richard Espenshade, Steve Espenshade (VP),
Brenda Frye, Sandy Mader, Raelene Smith (S), Mark Stremmel (P), Sherry Ulsh

Visit us on Facebook and "like" our church page:

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

Password: **GodIsAwesome** (*case-sensitive*)