**Worship Plan for Advent, December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**GATHERING SONG** *O God of Light (ELW 507, Vs. 1, 3, 4)*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,

 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

 **And also with you.**

*(to be read by variety of families….)*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Lord Jesus, we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait for your coming. Keep us awake and help us use our gifts to serve those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy. Amen.

**ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM Let the Christ Child In**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS ANTHEM**

**PEACE**

 The peace of Christ be with you always.

 **And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

From Heaven Above (ELW 268, vs. 1, 3, 4)

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who comes to wake us from sleep,

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.

God of all time,

**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 peace.**

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One,
the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word
dwelling among us full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in Jesus’ death and resurrection.
And we look with hope for your coming.
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

And teach us to pray…

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

 Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

 Share in the feast of salvation.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

**Blessing**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,

shine upon you and scatter the darkness

from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Joy to the World (ELW 267, v. 1, 2, 4)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000806.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.