

# A Warm Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church on this

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

September 20, 2026



*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
**3660 Kenny Rd, Columbus, OH 43220**  
**Pastor Joel Richter**  
**Website: [Adventlc.org](http://Adventlc.org)**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*  
Beth Pittman, piano

*arr. Maynard*

*You may stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

C **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C **Amen.**

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C And is also with you.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C **And is also with you.**

*Please take a moment to share the peace*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

## WE HEAR THE WORD

*The pericopes readings for this week are: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16*

### FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er

let you be my and ser - vant, too.  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

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## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my

presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*You may stand.*

#### VERSE



*;*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!  
Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated.

## MESSAGE

Pastor Joel Richter

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Reason to Praise

Cory Asbury

Advent's Praise & Worship Band

Offering is taken and the offering plates will be passed. You may put your donation in one of the pew envelopes and put in the offering plates, or use the "Online Donator" card, found in the pew rack. You can also support Advent's Ministries by using this QR code:



You may stand.

Musical notation for the song "Reason to Praise" by Cory Asbury. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## APOSTLES' CREED

A Christians, what do we believe?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

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

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence*

A Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. When judgement fills our minds, allow us to be curious about your grace. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially Robert Pforsich and Richard Williams, and anyone we now name out loud or silently in our hearts (*pause for prayers*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled, especially Elaine Hess. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

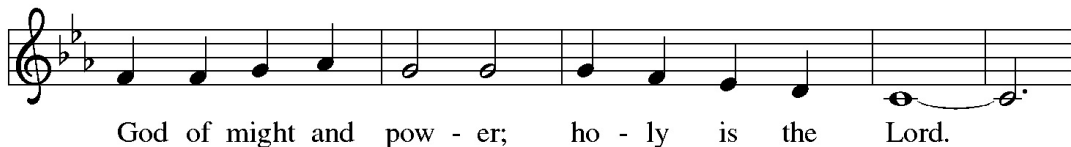
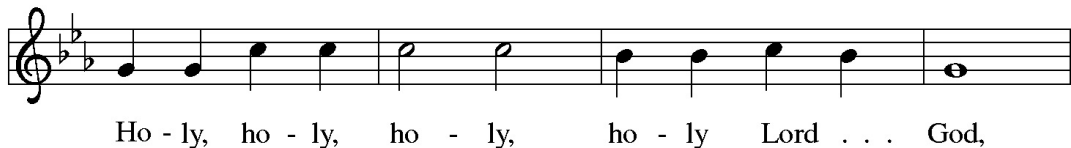
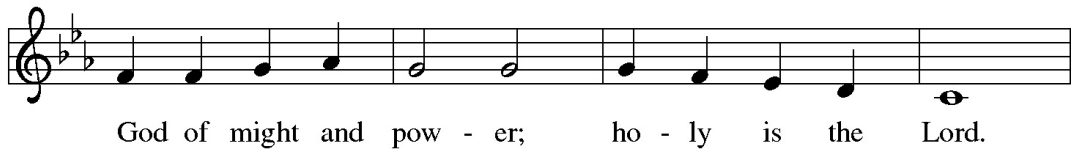
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

earth. . . . Blest is he who comes in the

name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . .

Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C**      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

**P**      Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*You may be seated.*



O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



## DISTRIBUTION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All are welcome when they are worshipping us.

### Holy Communion Instructions

*As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:*

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The body of Christ, given for you. | The communicant may say: <b>Amen</b> |
| The blood of Christ, shed for you. | The communicant may say: <b>Amen</b> |

***This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.***

*Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.*

*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets  
provided on the first row of chairs.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,  
please let an usher know.***

*You may stand.*

## POST COMMUNION

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen**

## PRAYER

**A** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

**P** The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

**C Amen.**

**P** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

### *This Little Light of Mine*

**ELW 677**

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different verse of the hymn. The second system contains three lines of lyrics, which are the same as the first system. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final note on each line that is a half note. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 oh,  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.  
 C **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

|                    | 8:30 am               | 11:00 am      |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Acolyte            |                       | Mathias Bunch |
| Assisting Minister | Alysha Clous          | Julie Page    |
| Pianist            | Beth Pittman          |               |
| Pastor             | The Rev. Joel Richter |               |

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*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Sal Grinch's 18th birthday, from her parents, Rebecca Raeske-Grinch and Stephen Grinch.*

*Please check the 2026 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Open dates are October 11, November 1, 15, 22, & 29. Price is \$25.00 per vase.*

### **This Week at Advent**

|                     |                                                |                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sun Sept 20</b>  | Back to <b>TWO SERVICES</b>                    | 8:30 & 11am        |
|                     | Church Picnic - Thompson Park<br>South Shelter | 12:00pm-<br>3:00pm |
| <b>Mon Sept 21</b>  | Men's SALT Bible study                         | 2:30pm             |
|                     | Church Council meeting                         | 6:30pm             |
| <b>Tue Sept 22</b>  | Building Use – Singing Buckeyes                | 6:00pm             |
| <b>Wed Sept 23</b>  | Worship @ <i>The Estates</i>                   | 2:30pm             |
| <b>Thur Sept 24</b> | Bell Choir rehearsal                           | 6:30pm             |
|                     | Advent Choir rehearsal                         | 7:30pm             |

## **Looking Ahead:**

|        |                                      |                        |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Oct 4  | Blessing of the Quilts               | 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. |
|        | First Sunday Fellowship              | in between services    |
|        | Blessing of the Animals              | 4:00 p.m.              |
| Oct 11 | Young Adult Group meets              | 12:30 p.m.             |
|        | Holy Hikes! ( <i>Park of Roses</i> ) | 12:30 p.m.             |
|        | Sr. High/Confirmation                | 5:30 p.m.              |
| Oct 18 | Activities & Ministries Fair         | in between services    |
| Oct 25 | Confirmation – One Service           | 10:00 a.m.             |

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

*Sun Sep 20, 2026: Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)*

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

*Mon Sep 21, 2026: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

## STAFF

Pastor: **Joel Richter**

Director of Music, Youth & Family  
Ministries: **Marcy Layne**

Organist/Pianist:

Digital Content Manager: **Courtney  
Pittman**

Nursery: **Courtney Crum**

Church Life Coordinator: **Beth Pittman**

## CONTACTS

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