

A Warm Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church on this

18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

September 27, 2026



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Advent Lutheran Church
3660 Kenny Rd, Columbus, OH 43220
Pastor Joel Richter
Website: Adventelc.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Casey Cook, piano

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.**

GATHERING HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

ELW 619, vs. 1,4,5

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to
5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my
 plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
 once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.
 soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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 **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

You may be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD

The pericopes readings for this week are: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

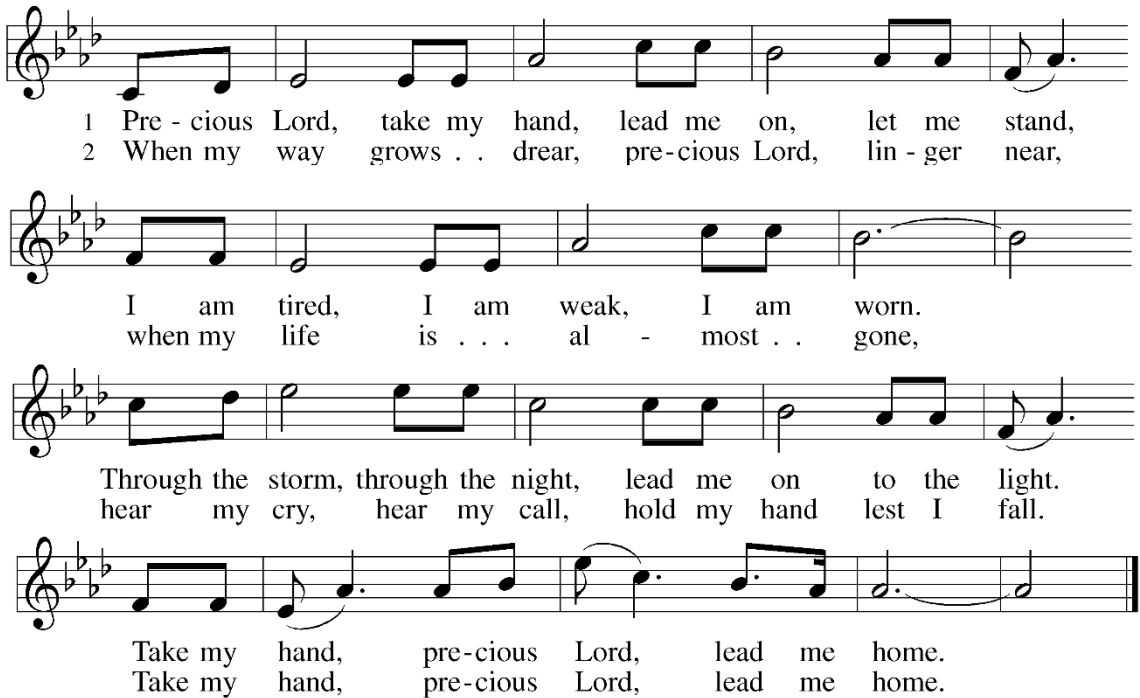
²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

8:30 AM

Casey Cook, piano

11:00 AM

Standing in the Need of Prayer

arr. Earlene Rentz

Advent Choir

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.

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music begins with a half rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "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 your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The score ends with a double bar line.

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
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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 Healing God, center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

- A Nourishing God, you call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of wisdom, inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of comfort, comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts (*pause for prayers*). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of wisdom, change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Faithful God, your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Gracious God, 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.**

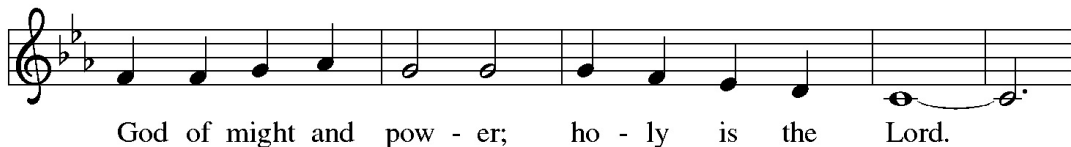
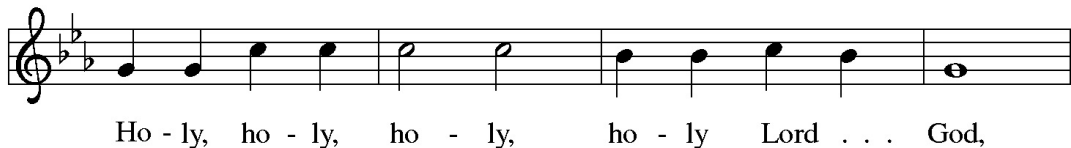
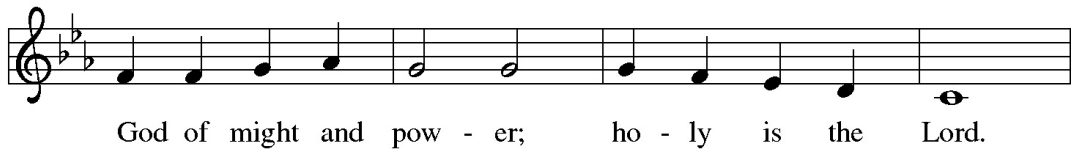
P Lift up your hearts.

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: Amen
The blood of Christ, shed for you.	The communicant may say: Amen

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

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

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		Camryn Ollanketo
Assisting Minister	Susan Cockerill	Craig Forsyth
Pianist/Organist	Casey Cook	
Pastor	The Rev. Joel Richter	

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of River Pittman’s 20th birthday, with love from the Pittman family, and in remembrance of her sister, Delores Coleman, from Norma Pitts.

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

Sun Sept 27	Worship Service	8:30am
	Sunday School/Adult Learning	9:45-10:45am
	Youth pick up and deliver quilts	
	Worship Service (livestreamed)	11:00am
Tues Sept 29	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
Wed Sept 30	Worship @ <i>The Estates</i>	2:30pm
Thur Oct 1	Church Staff meeting	4:30pm
	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 & Congregational Meeting	9:45 a.m.
	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

Tue Sep 29, 2026: Michael and All Angels

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Wed Sep 30, 2026: Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

STAFF

Pastor: **Joel Richter**

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

Organist/Pianist:

Digital Content Manager: **Courtney
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Nursery: **Courtney Crum**

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