



**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 15, 2026**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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STAFF & CONGREGATION SUPPORT: BETH PITTMAN  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

MARCH 15, 2026

### INTRODUCTION

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

**PRELUDE**                    **"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Me"** arr. Raney      **Jean Pontious**

*You may remain seated or stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P        Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C        **Amen.**

P        Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P        For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P        For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P        For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P        For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P        For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C        **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,  
 C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**  
 P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.  
 C **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**“He Leadeth Me”**

1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!  
 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,

What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
 by wa-ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.

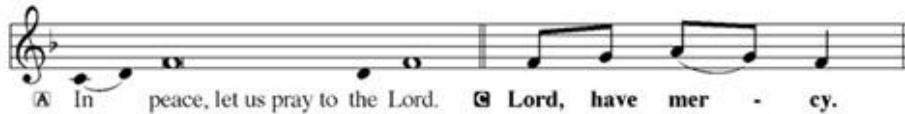
*Refrain*  
 He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.

His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.

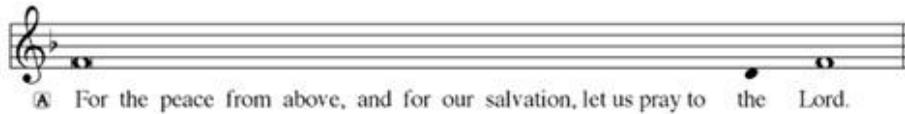
## GREETING

**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.**



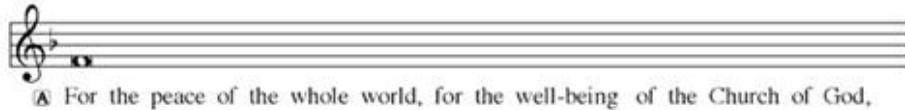
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



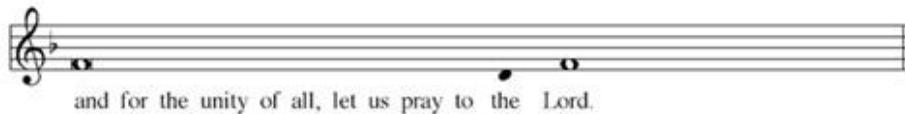
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



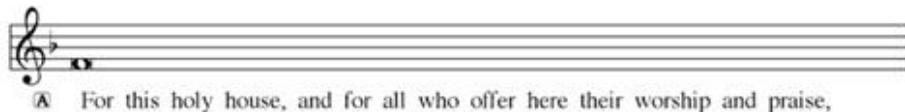
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## 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 **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

## WE HEAR THE WORD

*The pericopes readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41*

### **READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse

made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 23** (*Read responsively*)

A The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

A You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

C **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

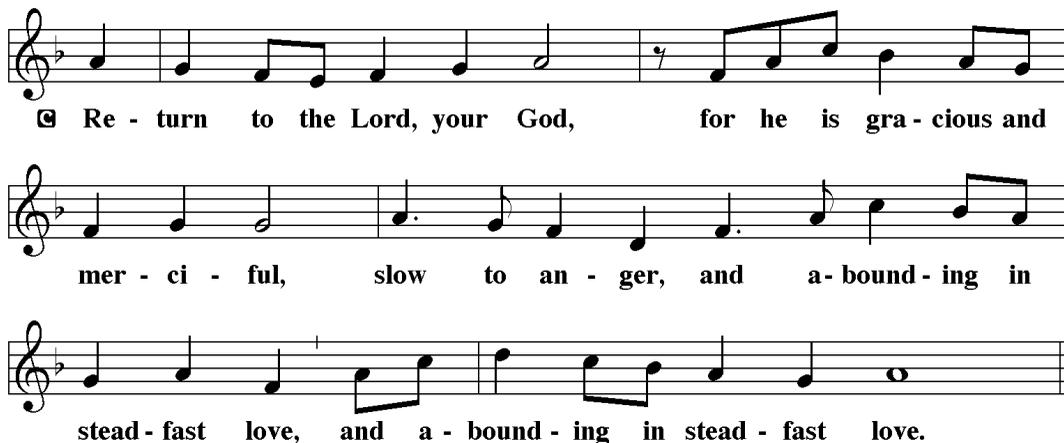
A You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Please remain seated for the reading of the Gospel.

## VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes.

Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

*After the reading:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**  
**PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**8:30am**

**“Jesus Walks This Lonesome Valley”  
Jean Pontious**

arr. Raney

**11:00am**

**“Plowshare Prayer”  
Praise & Worship Band and Advent Choir**

LaJoye/Terry

*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 remain seated or stand*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### 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 Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence*

A God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name’s sake. Guide and grant wisdom to our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. We lift up Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza bless them with peace and safety. Guide the leaders of Israel, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and the United States, in the way of peace, quell their violent ways. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day. We take a moment now to pray for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know only by name, either out loud, or silently in our hearts (**pause**). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God who brought Advent into mission, be present with us as we, with you, make decisions regarding our next called pastor. Bless us with wisdom and insight. Grant that we follow the will of your Spirits and not our own need, concerning our next called pastor.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... 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 - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **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.

## **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** Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

♪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION**

***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.***

**POST COMMUNION**

- P** And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.
- C** **Amen**

## PRAYER

A God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

## BENEDICTION

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

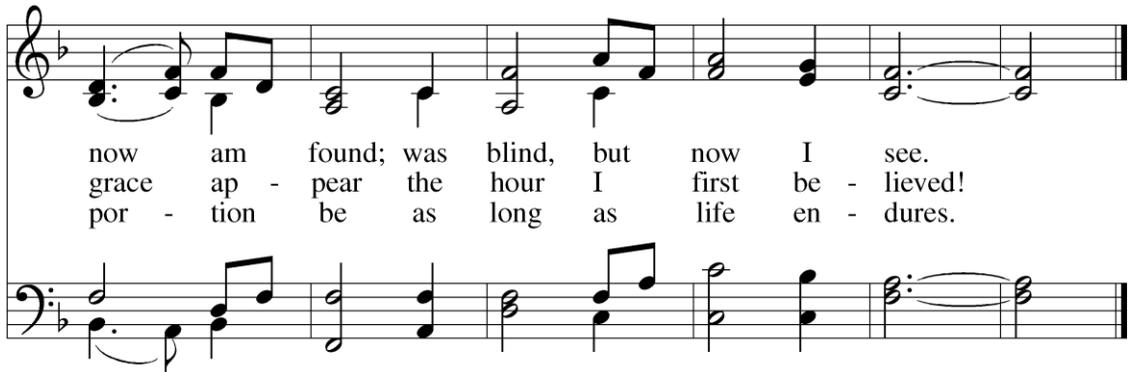
C Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### "Amazing Grace"

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

**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		ANDRENA SAMUEL
ASSISTING MINISTER	SUSAN COCKERILL	CRAIG FORSYTH
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God, from Brenda Wheeler.*

*Please check the 2026 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is \$25.00 per vase.*

## **This Week at Advent**

<b>Sun Mar 15</b>	NO Confirmation/Sr. High	
	Building Use – Klinksick	4:00pm
<b>Mon Mar 16</b>	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK	Mar 16 – Mar 23
	Men’s SALT Bible Study	2:30pm
	Church Council meeting	6:00pm
<b>Tue Mar 17</b>	Isabel’s Quilters	9:00am (offsite)
	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
<b>Wed Mar 18</b>	Women’s Bible Study	1:00pm
	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Guided Group Prayer	6:00pm
	Lenten Soup Supper	6:30pm
	Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	7:15pm
<b>Thur Mar 19</b>	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:40pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
<b>Sat Mar 21</b>	Pastoral Call Candidate Meet & Greet	12:00pm-2:00pm

### **Looking Ahead:**

Sun Mar 22	Congregational Meeting: Call Committee Update and Pastor Vote	10:00am
Wed Mar 25	Guided Prayer	6:00pm
	Soup Supper	6:30pm
	Lenten Worship	7:15pm

## Holy Week:

Sun Mar 29	Palm Sunday Worship Services	8:30am & 11:00am
	Easter Egg Hunt!	9:45am (between services)
Mon Mar 30	Worship Service	7:00pm
Tue Mar 31	Worship Service	7:00pm
Wed April 1	Worship Service	7:00pm
Thur April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship Services	12Noon & 7:00pm
Fri April 3	Good Friday Worship Services	12 Noon & 7:00 pm
Sun April 5	Easter Sunday! Worship	8:30 am & 11:00 am
	Easter Breakfast	9:45am (between servcies)
Sun May 3	Advent's 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!	
June 22-26, 2026	Advent's Vacation Bible School	

## Commemorations This Week:

Tue Mar 17, 2026: **Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Thur Mar 19, 2026: **Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Sat Mar 21, 2026: **Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556**

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

# **“Paraments and Stole for Lent”**

## **by Melissa Richeson-O’Neil, Artist**

**Lent – A season of spiritual journey – a time of reflection, penance, almsgiving, fasting...**

During Lent, your journey is deeper into the heart of God, ever drawing us closer to the cross and the sacrifice made there. In these paraments for Advent Lutheran, the cross stands secure in the background – the destination of our journey. The upward angle at the base of the overall shape of the paraments subtly directs our gaze upward to the heavens and to the Divine. The off-center hanging of the altar parament reinforces the “unsettled” feel that pervades the season of Lent.

The foreground images are stark and jagged representations of suffering and growth. Thorny projections evoke the coming crown of thorns as well as the individual thorns with which we each wrestle in our own lives. The sharp angles suggest the hard places in our hearts and the hard, often abrupt changes we encounter in our lives and thoughts.

Streams of water flow at the base of the parament, reminding us of the cleansing and nurture we receive in the waters of baptism. From these nourishing waters sprouts a green stem. Even during the hard, desolate days of Lent, our God is calling us closer, encouraging us to grow in God’s love and reach ever closer to the love and light which gives us life.

The parament background color is violet. Red bands edge the sides to remind us of the blood given for our lives, the blood through which we must move to reach the joy of resurrection at Easter.

The pulpit parament and stole repeat the same images in simpler forms. As our eyes traverse the designs, may our hearts examine our individual progressions and setbacks as we journey through Lent.