

# A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 AND 11:00 AM

MARCH 16, 2025

## INTRODUCTION

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

## PRELUDE

“LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”

Raney

JEAN PONTIOUS

*Stand or remain seated*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name, Father ✙ Son ✙ Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name, Father † Son † Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

Vss. 1 & 4

LBW # 377

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

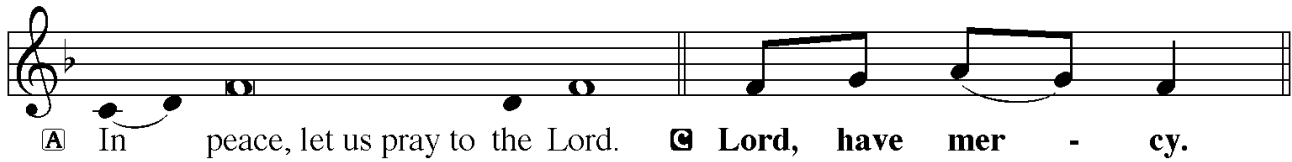
*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

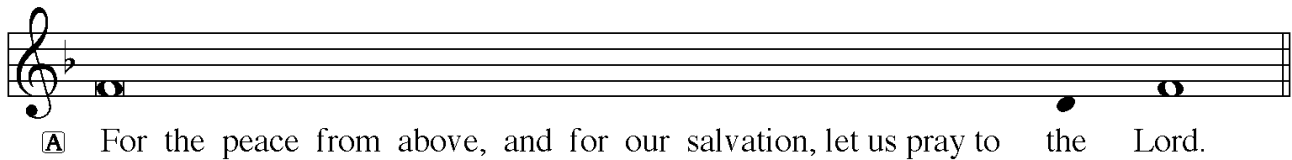
# GREETING

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

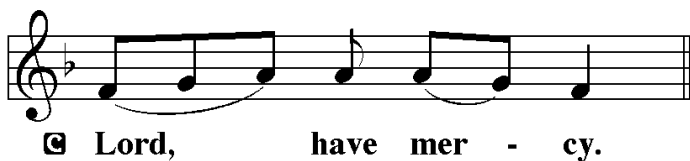
**C** **And is also with you.**



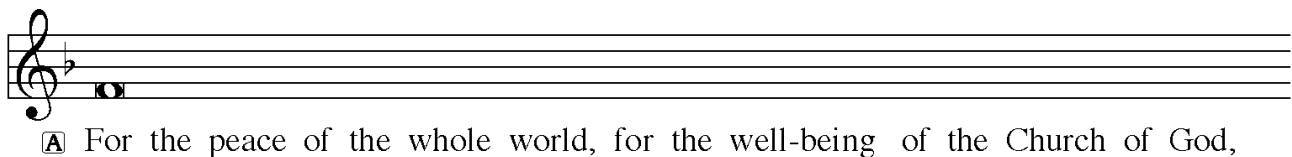
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



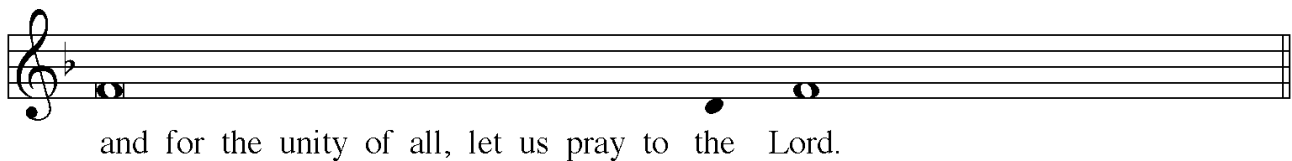
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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



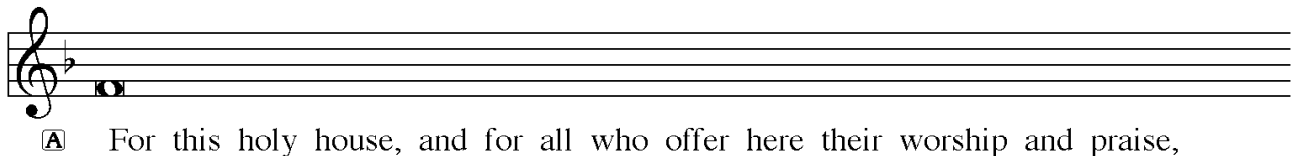
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



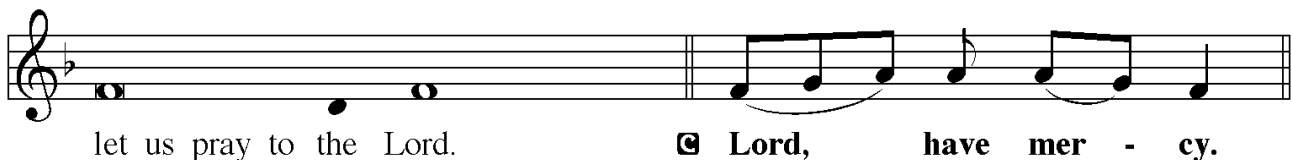
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.




**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

## WE HEAR THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a

young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 27**

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*

A <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C <sup>2</sup>**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

A <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

C <sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the  
house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the  
LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

A <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a  
rock.

C <sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

- A <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- C <sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**
- A <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;  
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.
- C <sup>10</sup>**Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**
- A <sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- C <sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- A <sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!
- C <sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

<sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*After the reading:*

- A The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Stand or remain seated*

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. Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### **GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“WALK IN GOD’S WAYS”*  
*“WALK IN GOD’S WAYS”*

COURTNEY PITTMAN AND JEAN PONTIOUS  
**ADVENT ANGELS**

**TO SUPPORT ADVENT’S MINISTRIES, POINT CAMERA HERE**



**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 Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

A Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

Strengthen our Bishop Suzanne to speak your word. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Bring joy and strength to people and organizations who advocate for the needs of neighbors. Empower activists who advocate for change. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Direct us to contribute effectively to the needs of others and to extend hospitality. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray for the peoples in so many countries whose lives are considered of no value by leaders. Welcome into your kingdom those who have been killed and protect those who are living in the valley of death, because of unconscionable wars. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. We pray aloud and silently for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name only (*leave a time of silence*). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your Spirit rest on our former pastor, AARON, as he begins his new ministry, where your Spirit called him. We grieve his loss and pray that your Spirit brings us a new full-time pastor to walk with us into your future as the church. God of grace,

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**C receive our prayer.**


A Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us especially those we name in our hearts (*leave a time of silence*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**


A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C Amen.**


## GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

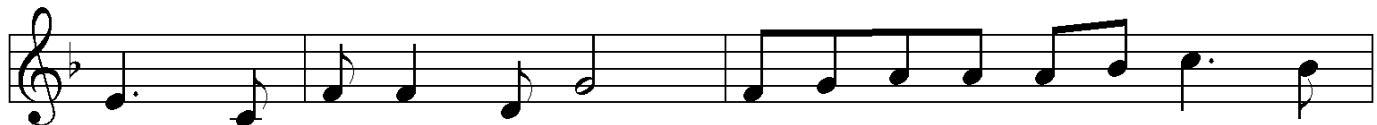
P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.



☞ 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**

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 baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are worshipping with 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.*

***After receiving the elements, you may return to your seats.***

*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.***

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

C    **Amen**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A    Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C    **Amen.**

# WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### "ABIDE WITH ME"

VSS. 1 & 2 LBW # 272

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 16**

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTE		TEDDY DENNETT
ASSISTING MINISTER	JANE PRAUSE	ANNA LAYNE
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Brenda Wheeler’s birthday from Glenn Sharp; and by Roy and Jane Hart to the Glory of God and in memory of their fathers, Elliot Hart and Elmer Fundermark.*



*Please check the 2025 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.*