



**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 2026**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

MARCH 8, 2026

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

PRELUDE

8:30am	"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"	by Larson	Advent Choir
11:00am	"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"	arr. Hayes	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-
 ing 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 distrust-
 ing 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 disre-
 garding 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

“Jesus Loves Me”

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

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

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

B 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. B Lord, have mer - cy.
 A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. B 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 **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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

The pericopes readings for this week are: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

READING: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95 (Read responsively)

A Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

A For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

A The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

A For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

C **“Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

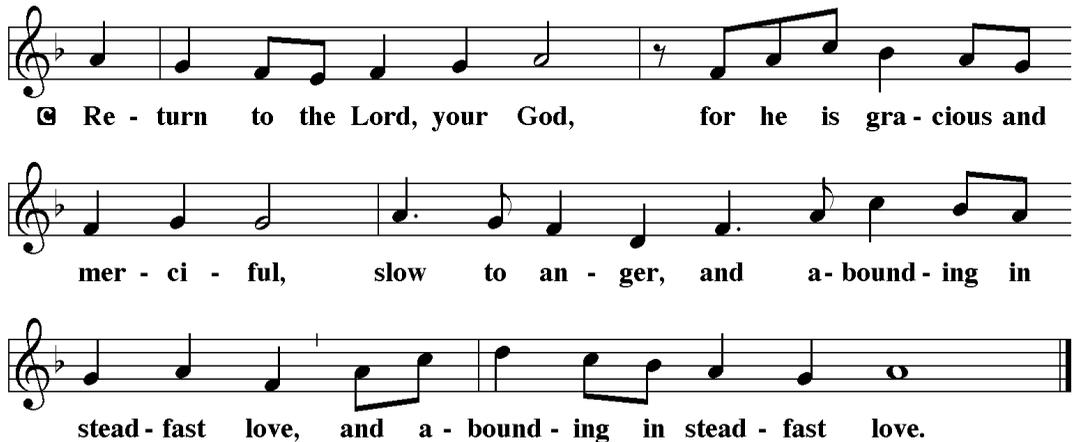
A There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

- C **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**
 A Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

You may remain seated or stand.

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 4th chapter.
 C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who

gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30am

“The One” by Craig Courtney

Advent Choir

11:00am

“Jesus Loves Me” arr. Carter

Jean Pontious

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 O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Guide and grant wisdom to our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. We pray for an end to violent conflict. We lift up Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, & Gaza; bless them with peace and safety. Guide the leaders of Israel, Russia, Iran and the United States, in the way of peace, quell their violent ways. Be with all who are living in the valley of death. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. 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 When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God who brought Advent into mission, be present in our call committee. Bless them with wisdom, insight and patience. Reassure us, as we await your Spirit's revelation concerning our next called pastor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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:



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.

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.***

☩ 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.

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

“Rock of Ages”

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands:

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.

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		SAM WITTEN
ASSISTING MINISTER	BETH PITTMAN	XAVIER TOLLIVER
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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

Sun Mar 8	Confirmation/Sr. High	12:15pm
Mon Mar 9	Administration Team meeting	6:30pm
Tue Mar 10	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:30pm
Wed Mar 11	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Guided Group Prayer	6:00pm
	Lenten Soup Supper – Y2 participates	6:30pm
	Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	7:15pm
Thur Mar 12	Praise & Worship Band rehearsal	6:30pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
Sat Mar 14	Bed Brigade delivery	9:00am

Looking Ahead:

Weds in Lent Guided Prayer, Soup Suppers & Worship Service 6:00pm/6:30 pm/7:15 pm

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 th Anniversary Celebration!	
June 22-26, 2026	Advent's Vacation Bible School	

Commemorations This Week:

Tue Mar 10, 2026: Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Thur Mar 12, 2026: Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

“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.