

**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THIS FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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STAFF & CONGREGATION SUPPORT: BETH PITTMAN

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE **"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"** arr. Keveren Jean Pontious

You may remain seated or stand.

CONFSSION 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 disdaining 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

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are as follows:

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with 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 - ey.
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 Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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

The pericopes readings for this week are: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

READING: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

After the reading:

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

PSALM 32 (Read responsively)

- A Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- C Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- A While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- C For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- A Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

A You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

A Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

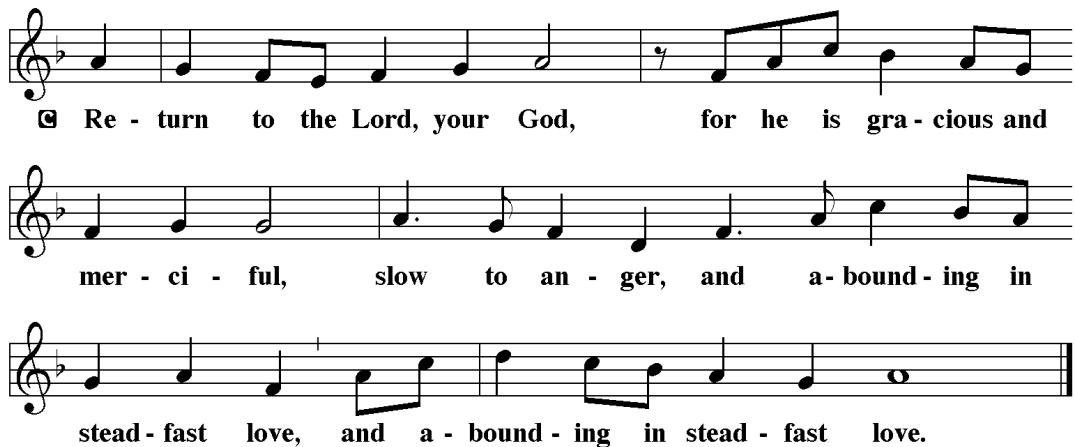
C Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

A Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

You may remain seated or stand.

VERSE



C 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. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30am	“Be Thou My Vision”	arr. Carter	Jean Pontious
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11:00am	“He is the Rock”	by Michael Barrett	Advent Choir
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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 of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. 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 of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. We lift up Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza bless them with peace and safety. Guide the leaders of Israel, Russia, and the United States, in the way of peace, quell their violent ways. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. 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 of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of today and tomorrow, grant us and our call committee wisdom, patience, freedom from anxiety, and reassurance as we await your Spirit's voice and revelation concerning a new leader who will walk with us. Merciful God,

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. 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 musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into four sections, each with a different vocal part (P, C, or both).

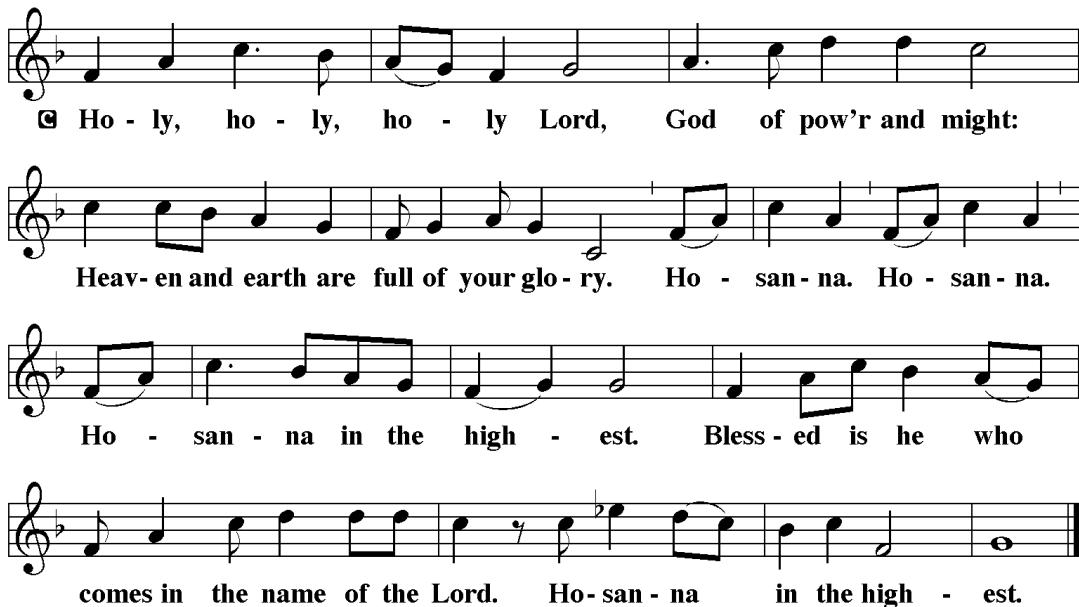
Section 1: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Section 2: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Section 3: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Section 4: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary... 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.

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.***

C 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

“A Mighty Fortress”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great,
Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.

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	ALYSHA CLOUS	TYLER WITTEN
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 Feb 22	Confirmation/Sr. High	12:15pm
Tue Feb 24	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
Wed Feb 25	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Guided Group Prayer	6:00pm
	Lenten Soup Suppers	6:30pm
	Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm
Thur Feb 26	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:40pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm

Looking Ahead:

Weds in Lent	Guided Prayer, Soup Suppers & Worship Service	6:00pm/6:30 pm/7:15 pm
Thur April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship Services	12 Noon & 7:00 pm
Fri April 3	Good Friday Worship Services	12 Noon & 7:00 pm
Sun April 5	Easter Sunday! Worship	8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sun May 3	Advent's 60 th Anniversary Celebration!	

Commemorations This Week:

Mon Feb 23, 2026: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Wed Feb 25, 2026: Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

“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.