

**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 1, 2026**

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

MARCH 1, 2026

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE **“What Wondrous Love Is This”** arr. Austin **Advent Bell Choir**

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

"Lift High the Cross"

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. **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 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.

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 **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:105, 13-17; John 3:1-17

READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

After the reading:

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

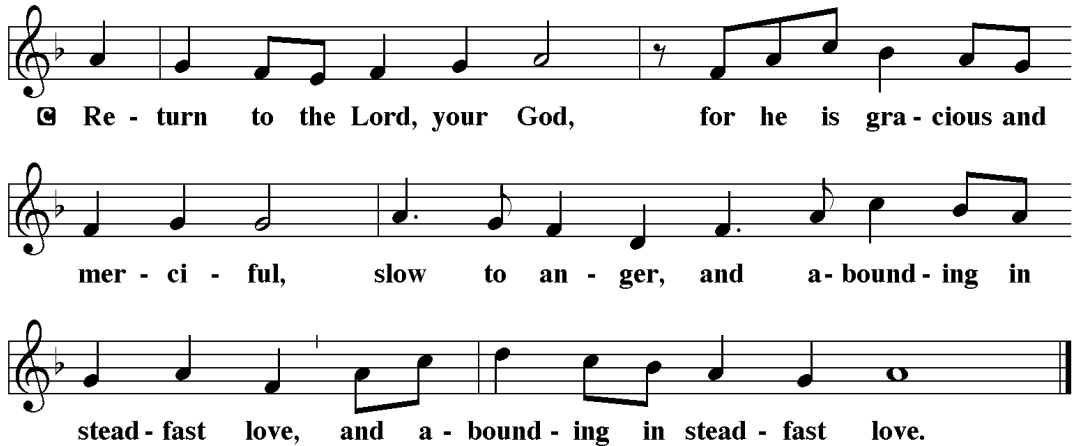
PSALM 121 (*Read responsively*)

- A I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- C **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**
- A The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- C **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- A the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- C **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
- A The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
- C **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

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 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in

him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Interlude No. 6” by Eric Thiman

Dolores Gross

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 Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Guide and grant wisdom to our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. 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 Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of today and tomorrows, grant us and our call committee wisdom, patience, freedom from anxiety, and reassurance as we await your Spirits voice and revelation concerning a new leader who will walk with us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

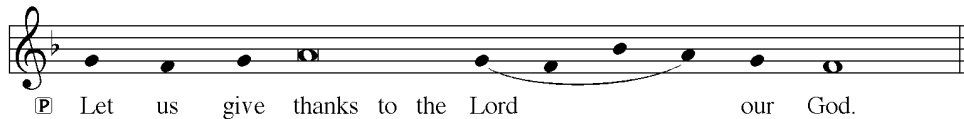
GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And also 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.

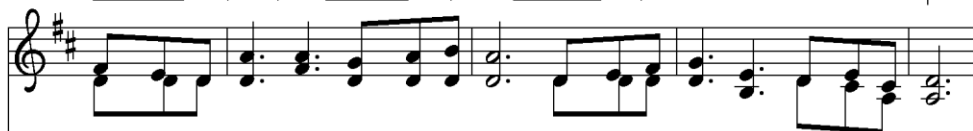
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”



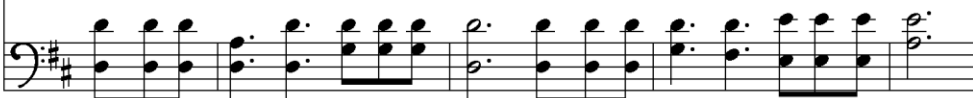
1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.



Refrain
This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



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		TEDDY DENNETT
ASSISTING MINISTER	MADISON SCHROER	JULIE PAGE
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	



The Altar Flowers are given by Bob Swinehart, in honor of Dee's birthday, and 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 1	Confirmation	12:15pm
	Sr. High Night Hike	5:00pm
Mon Mar 2	Men's SALT Bible Study	2:30pm
	Members of Worship & Witness/Parish Life teams volunteering at LSS Food Pantry	4:30pm-6:30pm
Tue Mar 3	Isabel's Quilters	9:00am
	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
Wed Mar 4	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Women's Bible Study	2:30pm
	Guided Group Prayer	6:00pm
	Lenten Soup Supper	6:30pm
	Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	7:15pm
Thur Mar 5	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm

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)
	Worship Services on Mon, Tues, Wed evenings	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:

Sun Mar 1, 2026: **George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633**

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

Mon Mar 2, 2026: **John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church**

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Sat Mar 7, 2026: **Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

“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.