



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

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER: COURTNEY PITTMAN
NURSERY: COURTNEY CRUM
STAFF & CONGREGATION SUPPORT: BETH PITTMAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

MARCH 22, 2026

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

PRELUDE "Now the Green Blade Rises" arr. Wold 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

"Now the Green Blade Rises"



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.


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.



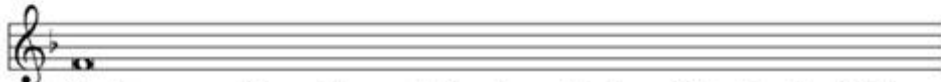
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.




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 **Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our

bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130 (Read responsively)

A Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

C O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

A If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

C Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

A I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

C My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

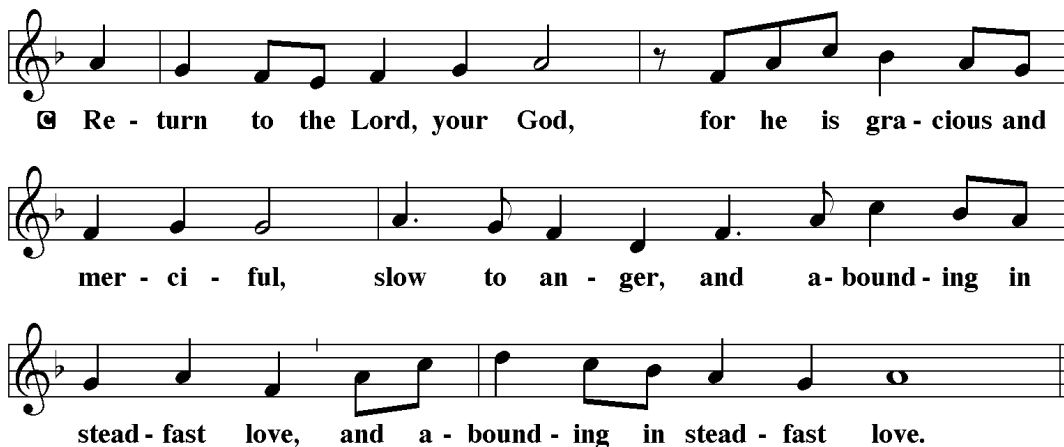
A O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

C For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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 11th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30am

“What Wondrous Love”
Jean Pontious

arr. Raney

11:00am

“Kyrie”
Music based on *Symphony No. 9* by Anton Dvořák

arr. Rouse

Advent Choir
John Riegel, *violin*

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 We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Guide and grant wisdom to our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for the nations, especially Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and the United States. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

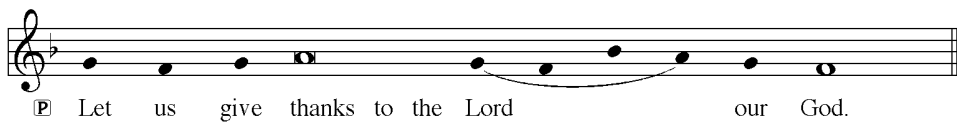
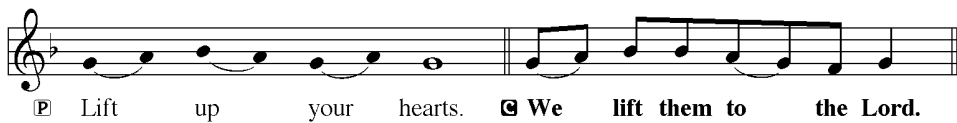
C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. 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 We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. 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 We offer our thanksgiving for Jonathan Edwards and all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life 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



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.

☐ 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

“Precious Lord”



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

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		PRESCOTT EISELSTEIN
ASSISTING MINISTER	BRENT WELCH	ANNA LAYNE
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God for Mark's 41st birthday, from Jean Pontious, and in loving memory of Charlie, by Norma Pitts.

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 22	Confirmation/Sr. High	12:15pm
Mon Mar 23	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK	Mar 16 – Mar 23
Tue Mar 24	SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION	
	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
Wed Mar 25	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Guided Group Prayer	6:00pm
	Lenten Soup Supper	6:30pm
	Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	7:15pm
Thur Mar 26	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:40pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm

Looking Ahead:

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 April 12	VBS planning meeting	9:45am in the Sanctuary
Sun May 3	Advent's 60th Anniversary Celebration!	
June 22-26	Advent's Vacation Bible School	
June 28	Celebration of Jean's Ministry & Retirement	

Commemorations This Week:

Sun Mar 22, 2026: **Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758**

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Tue Mar 24, 2026: **J Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of San Salvador, martyr, died 1980**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Wed Mar 25, 2026: **Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

“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.