

# Advent

Lutheran Church



**Advent** is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA) and part of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

We are a **Reconciling in Christ (RIC)** church, which means we welcome all people, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church.**  
***"Serving ALL humanity to build  
a community that emulates Christ"***

RECONCILING in CHRIST



Plainly said

**"ALL ARE WELCOME"**

**January 31, 2021**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/RIC Sunday**

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RECONCILING WORKS GREETING

Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Holy Parent, And of the + Child, And of the Holy Spirit, whom we invite into this space. Amen.

P: Let us confess the ways we have fallen short in justice-making for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, and all who are marginalized.

Gracious God,

**C: We confess that we have turned from you, and have not always welcomed and loved all your beloved children as we ought. We have spoken carelessly in ways that hurt our siblings in Christ, and we have stayed silent in the face of injustices. In your compassion, forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Inspire in us a desire to right wrongs and to work to create a more just and equitable world where all have equal access to safety, health, and happiness. Turn us towards your Love so that we might live and serve you in the hope of abundant life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you that all people are made in the image of God and are beloved. We proclaim today, proudly: that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, indigenous, and all People of Color matter; and that we as a Church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, and transphobia.



**C: We serve one another, the community and the world with the gifts that God has given to us.**

P: Holy Spirit, Come! We are your church.

**C: We invite you to explore more about who we are, to attend worship, and to engage in the many ministries of our church and community.**

P: Holy Spirit, Come! We are your church.

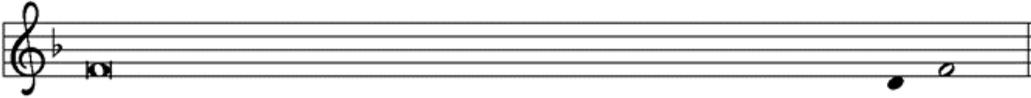
**C: We humbly strive every day to live our mission of: *Serving ALL humanity to build a community that emulates Christ.***

P: Holy Spirit, Come! Amen.

## KYRIE



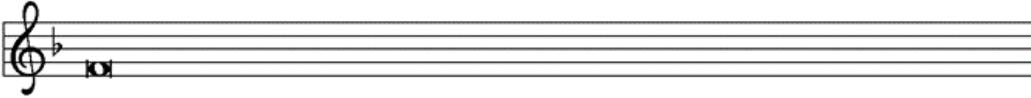
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



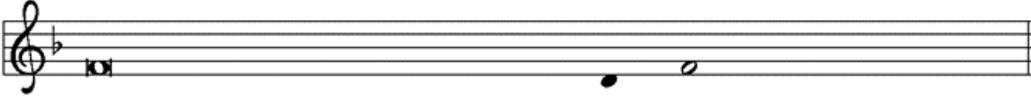
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



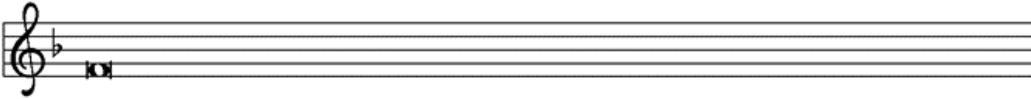
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



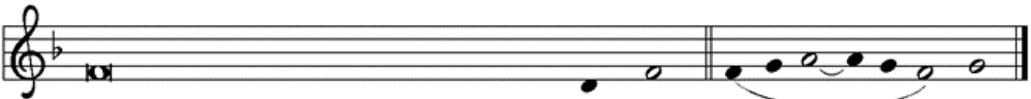
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God in the highest”

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of the Kin-dom of God, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray,  
C: Amen.

## FIRST READING

### Deuteronomy 15:15-20

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

### Psalm 111 (*please read responsively the bold verses*)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O Lord,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

**R: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.  
R: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.  
R: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

**C: You have the words of eternal life.**

P: Alleluia.

**C: Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL**

### **Mark 1:21-28**

P: A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

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

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Lisa Wegner, YFM Director**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Alexis Twito**



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Creator and endless weaver of our lives, we rejoice in your creation and its endless diversity. As your care for creation is shown in its complexity and the changing of the seasons, teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God who was made flesh, we ask for your forgiveness as we fall short to see you embodied in those around us. Give us eyes to see you in the lives of those targeted by police violence; those kicked out of their home because of who they are and who they love; those whose families have been destroyed by forced separations at our country's borders; and for those we have yet to see due to our fears. God, you know what it is like to be cast out. May your Spirit fill us with the courage, conviction, and dedication to work for justice knowing when we do, we are in fact caring for you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Healer and Comforter, as each day brings new wonderings about the health of our family, friends, community, and nation, we remember that you can hold all we bring to you through prayer with sacred love. With hearts of joy and lament, we bring you the names and places of your people in need, speaking them aloud or in the silence of our hearts, now...God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the unknown, all that you are and all that you have been is without boundaries. Open our hearts and minds to the new possibilities that surround us each day. Help us to remember that through your love we are made new with each sunrise and filled with your Spirit in every breath. May this moment of worship be a touchstone of remembrance that we have something new to see and learn. Give us space to listen and see what you are showing us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us to see and love people we don't know yet, so we might continue to greet you in faith and be joyfully changed by who you are: wild and wonderfully endless in your diversity. Whisper sweet Spirited inspirations in our ears. Bless this community of faith with challenges to grow us, care to wrap us up when we are wounded, and an abiding fire for the justice you are bringing. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*We now invite you to take a moment to prepare your offering at home. Sharing our blessings back to the Church is one way that we participate in the mission and ministry of the congregation. We are so grateful for all the ways you have already supported Advent and pray that you continue to do so. You may give online at [adventchurch.org](http://adventchurch.org), or can mail/drop off your offering envelope to the church.*

## **OFFERTORY SONG:**

***“Be Thou My Vision”***

*arr. R. Stewart*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: Let us pray.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.

P: Gathered to be one through the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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

## CLOSING PRAYER

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P:** Siblings in Christ, let us go out into the world in peace; love boldly; proclaim loudly; welcome, include, and celebrate all God's children. Stand strong against injustices of this world; and let this faith community be a place of care and renewal for all.

**C: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**L:** Beloveds, go in peace. Work for justice, encounter God in all you see, and know you are LOVED!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**"Lord Be With Us As We Praise"**

Advent Senior Choir

Liturgy and Setting 3 Sung Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons  
Augsburg Fortress license SB160615. Used with permission.

"Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race"  
Text: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc  
Music: TALLIS' CANON  
Used with permission. OneLicense.net #A-736994 license w podcast

"Great God, Your Love has Called Us"  
Text: Brian A Wren © 1995 Hope Publishing  
Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker © Oxford University Press  
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### **Advent Lutheran Church**

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