

Advent

Lutheran Church



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

RECONCILING in CHRIST



Plainly said

"ALL ARE WELCOME"

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.

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING SONG

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one
who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

C: pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

**Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P: Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen.

LENTEN CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Week One: Resistance

L: We light this candle as a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ to help us resist the
temptations of the world. Resistance is love in action. Let us pray.

**C: Lord, help us to keep our feet moving, our hands outstretched, and our hearts
open to you. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, keep us from
temptation and help us to do Your work in our world. Amen.**

SONG:

"Make Me a Servant"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10 (*please read responsively the bold verses*)

¹To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

R: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

R: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

R: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

“Burying the Alleluia”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

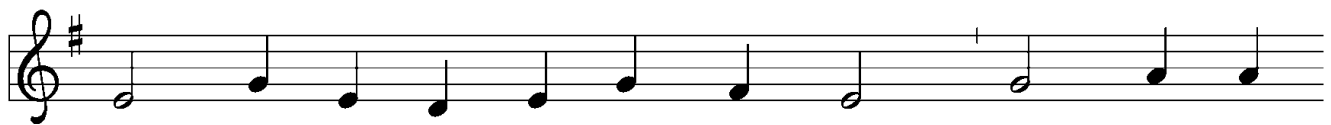
SERMON

Pastor Alexis Twito

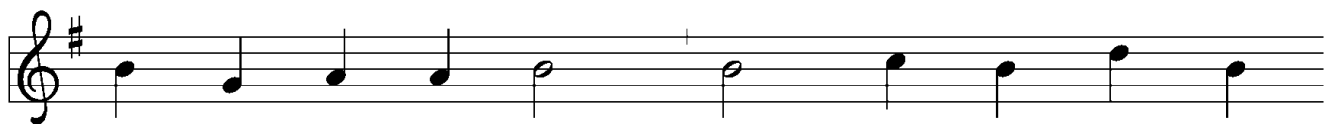
HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

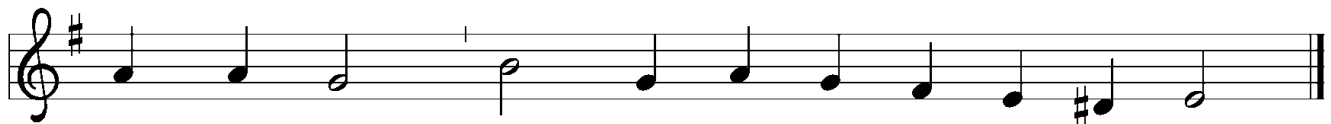
ELW 320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer especially those on our prayer list, and those we lift before you now, in the silence of our hearts... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern: partnership with Cross Lutheran Church and their food pantry/ meal ministry, MABO orphanage in Haiti, WIGBACK yarn ministry with Ellsworth prison, Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge homeless ministry, Joe's Sleeping Bags, and our ministry to Advent members young and old. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, or can mail/drop off your offering envelope to the church.

OFFERTORY SONG: “Softly & Tenderly”

arr. J. Raney

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

P: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in Peace. Put love in action.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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"The Glory of These Forty Days"
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