

# Advent

## Lutheran Church



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

**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.

RECONCILING in CHRIST



Plainly said

**"ALL ARE WELCOME"**

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

### 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

*"In the Cross I Glory"*

ELW 324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## 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 LITANY

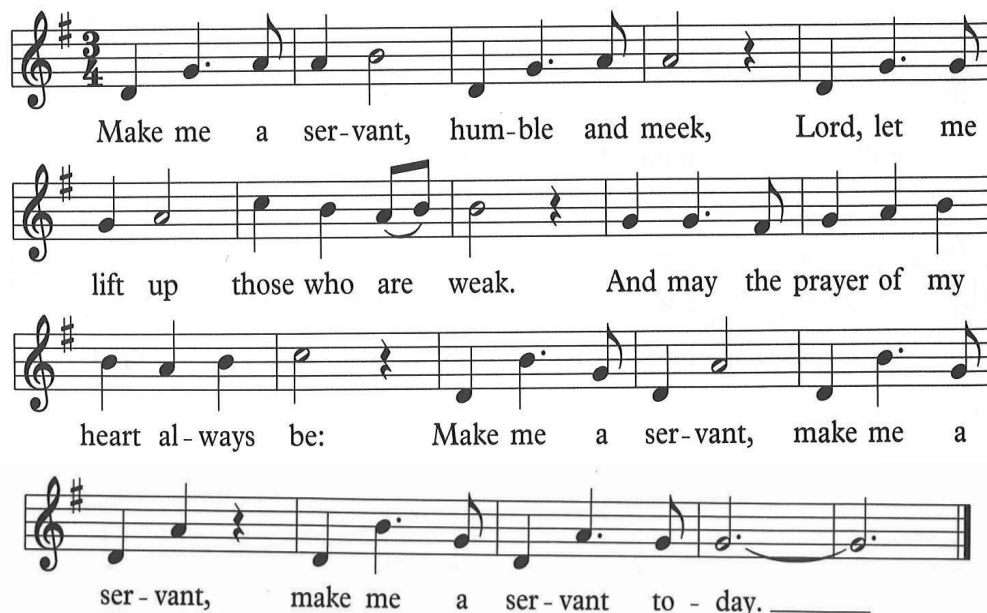
Week Three: Righteous Anger

L: We light three candles as a reminder that when we see God's children being abused and  
oppressed, when God's creation is neglected and exploited, we are invited to share in  
God's heartbreak and anger. Righteous anger is love in action. Let us pray.

**C: God of justice, may our hearts be broken for what breaks your heart. As we jour-  
ney towards the cross this Lenten season, kindle in us a righteous anger that stirs  
us to love and serve. Amen.**

## SONG:

### "Make Me a Servant"



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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**

### **Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the  
world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it  
again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

**R: The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

**R: The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

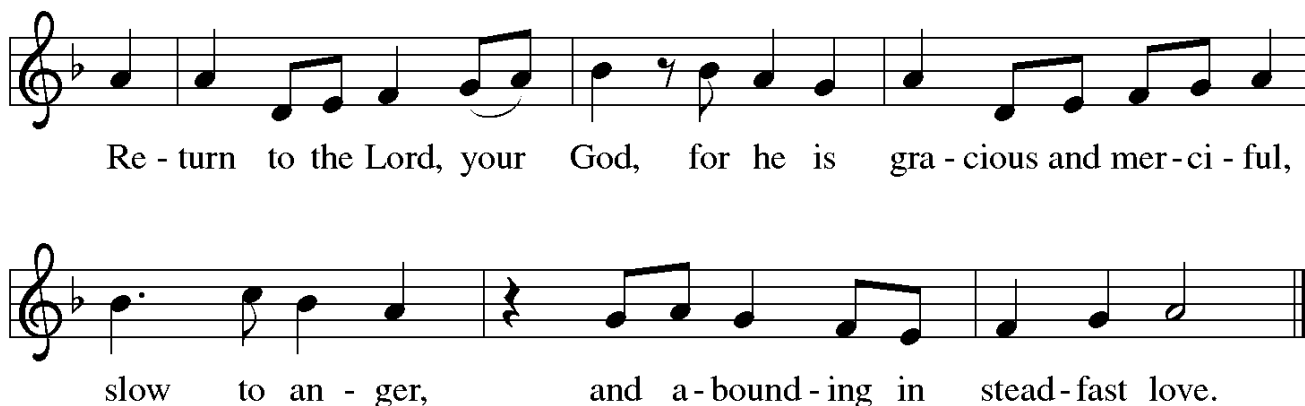
<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion  
over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in  
your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**R: The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

### John 2:13-22

**P:** A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

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

[<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

**Pastor Alexis Twito**



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,  
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease  
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,  
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,  
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;  
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.  
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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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.*

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering, especially those on our prayer list, and those we lift before you now, in the silence of our hearts... Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. ...

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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](http://adventchurch.org), or can mail/drop off your offering envelope to the church.*

## OFFERTORY SONG

## 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: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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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