

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.

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

PASTORAL GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**

who rules over the nations.

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved

us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*hummed softly in church*)

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is a simple, hummable tune. The first staff begins with a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4, and finally a quarter note A4. The second staff follows the same pattern. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating the syllables are spread across the notes.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

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

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it

abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Alexis Twito

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love:

those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, especially...

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Parent, + Child, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbors,
without leaving your pew or engaging in physical touch or embraces*

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERING

As you leave worship today, we invite you to respond to God's abundant generosity and graciousness by giving back to God, and supporting the mission and ministry of Advent Lutheran Church. Offering plates are located near the exits, next to the take-home communion kits, and you are encouraged to leave your gift on your way out. Thank you!

POSTLUDE

Safety Greeters will dismiss everyone by rows, so please remain in your seats, enjoying our postlude music, until the greeter dismisses you. As you leave, you are encouraged to grab a take-home communion kit and leave your offering. We ask, however, that you do not congregate or socialize inside the church, but rather move outside to do so.

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Celtic Alleluia

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"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Contributors: Fred Kaan/Doreen Potter

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W63N642 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI 53012 | 262-377-2710 | www.adventchurch.org