



9:30am Sunday, Oct 4, 2026
Feast of St. Francis

Advent Lutheran Church

We extend welcome to people of all races, cultures and colors; to people of all sexual orientations, gender expression and gender identity; to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities; to people of every legal, economic and marital status and to all those the world seeks to separate, divide or isolate. We celebrate your identity as a gift from God. You are welcome to a diverse community united by faith. Receive God's grace given to all regardless of worldly successes or failures. Together we commit ourselves to embrace the continuing work of anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

*"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God." Romans 15.7*



Advent is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

— GATHERING —

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation and was known especially for his love of animals.

Prelude

Pastor's Welcome

Litany for Repentance and Healing of Creation

In the beginning, the Spirit hovered over the deep;
new life daily unfolded at God's call.

Darkness and light: Good.

Skies, lands, and seas: Good.

The earth and all that fills it—plants and rocks,
the finned, the feathered, the furry: Good.

At the last, humankind in God's image: Very good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness
in care for God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we have
exploited earth and its creatures.**

We have misunderstood our calling
to be protectors of God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we
have exploited earth and its creatures.**

We long for new relationships with God's creation
that has been entrusted to us.

**Help us, God, to make a new community
with all that lives alongside us.**

May the merciful God who calls us
to tend earth and all its creatures,
deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving,
so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace
with all living things; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth*



1. O God, your crea-tures fill the earth with won - der and de - light, and ev - 'ry liv - ing
2. You made the pets we wel - come in; they're won - drous bless - ings, too. With paws and whisk - ers,
3. You made the crea - tures on each farm; you know the things they need. May they grow health - y,
4. Your crea - tures live in ev - 'ry land; they fill the sky and sea. O Lord, you give us



thing has worth and beau - ty in your sight. So play - ful dol - phins dance and swim; your
wings, and fins, they of - fer praise to you. O Lord, you call us to em - brace these
safe from harm, and safe from hu - man greed. Just as a shep - herd loves the sheep, you
your com - mand to love them ten - der - ly. We're called to be good ste - wards here, to



sheep bow down and graze. Your song birds share a morn - ing hymn to of - fer you their praise.
crea - tures in our care. May we show kind - ness, love, and grace to all pets ev - 'ry - where.
know their joy, their pain. Lord, bless the an - i - mals we keep; may all farms be hu - mane.
care for them al - ways. By lov - ing crea - tures you hold dear, we of - fer you our praise.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life. Recalling Francis who celebrated your love for all creation, today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky; to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken; to fish and puppy, to cats of the jungle and in our homes. Bless all who care for injured and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. Deepen our care for all that lives; in the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend. **Amen.**

— WORD —

Family Lesson and Sunday School

First Reading: Genesis 1:1, 20-28

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruit-

-ful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.”

And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth^l and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in God’s image,
in the image of God they were created;

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

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

Choir Anthem *Prayer of Saint Francis*

René Clausen

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, help me to pardon.
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is darkness, let me bring light.
Where there is sorrow, let me bring joy, let me bring joy!
O Lord, master divine, grant that I not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, to love, to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
And in pardoning that we are pardoned.
For in dying we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Amen, amen, amen.

Second Reading: Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise
for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near
the Lord. Hallelujah!**

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Touch the Earth Lightly

ELW #739

Blessing of Pets

*Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom
All Things Bright and Beautiful
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

ACS #1064
Page 9
ELW #836

Prayers of the People

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Announcements

—— MEAL ——

Offering Song

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS #1063

Giving Made Easy: *You may give your offering by scanning the Venmo QR code here. Thank you for your generosity and faithful support of our ministry.*



Offering Prayer

God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.**

Instructions and Invitation to Communion

Distribution and Music

For the Beauty of the Earth
This Is My Father's World
God of the Sparrow

ELW #879
ELW #824
ELW #740

Prayer after Communion

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.
Strengthened by this meal,
send us out to care for all who
hunger and thirst,
and give us courage
to love and serve in Jesus' name. Amen.

—— **SENDING** ——

Sending Hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

ELW #835

Benediction

May the love of God the Creator strengthen you,
may the wisdom of Jesus guide you, +
and may the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for creation!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Announcements

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Anne meets every Tuesday at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (a link can be found in each Wednesday email). This week's readings: Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9 ; Matthew 22:1-14

First Sunday of the Month Little Pantry Donations

Just a reminder that October 4th is the first Sunday of the month food drive for the Little Pantry. We really appreciate your donations! While the pantry shelves are moderately stocked, our supplies are running quite low, and we could use more staples. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

2026 Key Dates & Deadlines for Voting

For more information, go to <https://www.vote411.org/washington> or <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/224/Elections-Voter-Registration>

- October 16 - Start of 18-day voting period (through Election Day). Ballots are mailed out, and Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) are available at voting centers.
- October 26 - Online and mail registrations must be received 8 days before Election Day. Register to vote in person during business hours and any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- November 3 General Election - Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Deadline for Washington State voter registration or updates (in person only).
- If you need to mail your ballot, it is recommended to mail it more than a week before Election Day. After that, use a ballot drop box. It's the fastest way to ensure your ballot is received!

Please join us for **First Monday Bible Study** as we gather in devotion, fellowship, and prayer. Our next meeting is on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm, Oct 5th. For more information, contact Christine Maurich at bookreader.maurich@outlook.com.

Council members want to hear from you! TODAY after worship, members of our congregation council will be at a designated table in the Fellowship Hall to answer your questions, listen to your ideas or concerns, and share what the council has been up to. We encourage you to stop by and say hello. And a reminder, you can always share your thoughts and questions with the council using the email, churchcouncil@adventlutheran.net.

Welcome

Children are welcome in worship. Pick up an activity bag in the entry. If little ones need wiggle time, the service is broadcast on the screen there as well.

Holy Communion is intended for everyone. It is an open table.

Gluten-free wafers are available.

Newcomer today? Use the QR code below to learn more.

Your offering of financial support, time and talent is welcome and important. The QR link will guide you to online giving. Checks can be written to Advent Lutheran Church.

Restrooms are located in the Fellowship Hall next door.

Connect

Council Leaders

Gail Walters, President
Miriam Brady, Vice President
Michael Flynn, Secretary
Brian Hall, Treasurer
Eric Botterbusch, President Emeritus
Chris Burns
Margaret Duncan
Ray Hoyt
Spencer Noble
Sofia Rodriguez

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Office Manager, Sofia Bakenhaster
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Facilities, Andrew Harper
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Thank you for serving today:

Ushers: Diane and Ken Krause

Lector: Gretchen Hanna

Flower: Bernice and Phil Clements, in
loving memory of our son, Travis.

Financial Secretary, Carolyn Johnson,
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Lay Pastoral Care Ministry, Jill Bossen
prayerrequests@adventlutheran.net



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Church