



17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

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.

Welcome

Worship includes everyone! You are invited to speak the bold-printed words in this bulletin. “ELW” refers to the red hymnal in front of you. “ACS” refers to hymns found in the purple hymnal. During the Sharing of Peace, people generally move around the sanctuary to share signs of Christ’s peace with a hug, a handshake, a peace sign, or saying the words, “Peace be with you.” Participate at your own comfort level.

Children are welcome in worship! Children are always encouraged to participate in worship. If your little one needs a break, there is space to play and stretch out in the narthex. A TV screen will allow you to see and hear worship while supervising your child. Quiet bags and coloring supplies can be found in the narthex and brought to your pews. During the Family Lesson, children are invited to come forward, with or without a grown-up, for a message created especially for them. Don’t worry — wiggles and noises are expected! Sunday School takes place after the Family Lesson in the A building next door; children return to worship during the Sharing of Peace.

Fidget toys are available in bags in most pews. Noise-canceling headphones are also available. Ask an usher if you need a set. Neurodiversity is celebrated here.

Holy Communion is intended for everyone. It is an open table. Ushers will guide you. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic grape juice are available.

Newcomer today? Use the QR code on the back page to learn more about Advent.

Your offering of financial support, time and talent enables us to do God’s work locally and globally! The QR links on the back page will guide you to an online giving platform or to our Vemo account. Checks can be written to Advent Lutheran Church. Thank you for your generosity!

Restrooms are located in the Fellowship Hall next door.

The blue HERE I AM! card in your pew rack can be used to request a meeting with the pastor or ask for prayers. Visitors are invited to share their contact information and check the appropriate box to request our e-news. Place the card in the gold plate that will be passed to you during Offering.

Thank you for serving today:

Ushers: Irene Bizier, Cari Krippner

Lector: Cindy Abrahamson

Hospitality: Columbarium committee

Acknowledgements:

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—— GATHERING ——

Prelude

Welcome & Gathering Hymn

God Is Here!

ELW #526

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

—— WORD ——

Family Lesson

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.

¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

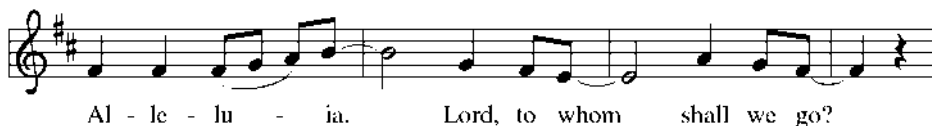
Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

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

¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW #587

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with those around you; a hug, a handshake, a fist bump, peace sign, and/or the words, "Peace be with you."

Announcements

— MEAL —

Offering Song

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #583

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 creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

Amen.

The 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.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Instructions and Invitation to the Table

All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will guide you. Gluten-free and non-alcoholic elements are available.

Distribution and Music

*By Your Hand, You Feed Your People
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
I Received the Living God*

ELW #469
ELW #733
ELW #477

Post-Communion Blessing

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

— SENDING —

Sending Hymn

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW #538

Blessing

The God of love

draw you into full accord and one mind,

in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope

grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for worshipping with us today! We are a more complete community because you are here. Everyone is invited to share coffee, tea, treats, and friendly conversation in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Please join us!

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: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

On Thursday, September 17th, Judy Bashaw turns 80! She invites you to help her celebrate with some cake right after service on Sunday, September 20th. Judy loves the people of Advent and greatly appreciates your greetings and friendliness. However, due to having a severe case of cerebral palsy, Judy can be difficult to communicate with. So, in addition to enjoying some cake, she is going to offer some quick tips about how to talk with her. Come celebrate and get to know Judy a bit more!

Connect

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