



18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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: Pam Stubsten, Bill Case

Lector: Eric Botterbusch

Hospitality: Choir team

Flower: Kristine Sharpe, in loving memory of my parents, Per and Martha Jorgensen

Acknowledgements:

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— GATHERING —

Prelude

Welcome & Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW #532

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

—WORD—

Family Lesson

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Choir Anthem

God Has Work for Us to Do

Carl P. Daw, Jr. & Mark A. Miller

Refrain: (Please join in singing when directed)

God has work for us to do.

God has work for us to do.

‘Til God’s will is done, and all things are made new,

God has work for us, work for us to do.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,

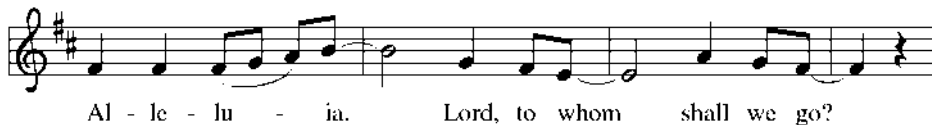
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 21-23-32

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

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O God, Who Gives Us Life

ACS #1086

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.**

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.



venmo

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

Around You, O Lord Jesus
Bread of Life from Heaven
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW #468
ELW #474
ELW #464

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

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

ELW #548

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.

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 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14 ; Matthew 21:33-46

Help Our Preschool Grow!

Advent Lutheran Preschool is a new ministry, and we need your help to keep it growing.

We are looking for volunteers with skills or experience in **marketing, social media, community outreach, communications, or student recruitment** who would be willing to share those gifts with our preschool. Our primary goal is to **reach more families, increase awareness in our community, and welcome more children into our preschool.**

If this sounds like an area where you could help, please contact **Miriam Brady** at [pre-school@adventlutheran.net](mailto:preschool@adventlutheran.net).

Substitute Teachers Needed!

Advent Lutheran Preschool is looking for **caring, dependable substitute teachers** to help keep our classrooms running smoothly when a regular teacher needs to be away.

This is a **paid position**, and **training is provided**. If you enjoy working with young children and would enjoy the opportunity to support our preschool ministry on an as-needed basis, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested or want to learn more? Contact **Miriam Brady** at preschool@adventlutheran.net.

Come be part of helping our youngest learners grow, play, and thrive!

Connect

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