

Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020



We give thanks that you are worshipping with us today. Advent Lutheran Church is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We welcome you on your spiritual journey, be it for an hour or a lifetime! We celebrate Holy Communion each Sunday. All Christians are welcome to partake in this meal of grace and forgiveness.

We invite you to complete a visitor's card (located in your bulletin or the Ushers' table) so you can stay informed. You may place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher as you leave. Everything you need for the worship service is printed in the bulletin. A nursery for children age 5 and younger is provided at the end of the hallway; please ask an usher if you need assistance. We invite you to join us in the lobby for refreshments after the service!



PRAYER CONCERNS

We keep the following persons in prayer



Richard Ahlvin (uncle of Anne Curtis)
Rev. Robert Avella (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Erva Bruno (friend of the Lovells)
JC Cox (brother of Nancy Jairrels)
Bernard Falksen (father of David Falksen)
Celia Finestone (friend of Ellie Holsopple)
Marsel Gray (member)
Warren Hageman (member)
Ray & Reba Hawn (members)
Jenny Jones (friend of the Falksens)
Michael Lewallen (member)
Bruce McHale (friend of the Falksens)
Mimi McNeel (friend of Ellie Holsopple)
Janet Osborne (friend of Ingrid Berdahl)
Ingrid Palmquist (member)
Rev. Bill Perry (friend of Advent)
Patti Peterson (wife of Walter Peterson)
David Pellinen (member)
Michele Polestino (friend of Carole Assante)

Hannah Reese (friend of Sam & Anne Curtis)
Yvonne Ross (friend of Nesta Alleyne)
Arlene Scott (friend of Desiree Jessimy)
Jeannie Stevens (aunt of Sam Curtis)
Emese Szabo (sister of Georges Toth)
Linda and David Trismen (parents of Eric Trismen, friend of Advent)
Jean Wetzel (mother of Joy Duncan)
Arthur and Charles Wichern (brothers of Carole Assante)
Becky Wilfinger (friend of Marilyn Falksen)

For those deployed to serve this country:

Delaunta Fitzgerald (grandson of Chandra Fitzgerald)
Kevin Messer (friend of Advent)
Charlie Nash (son of Gordon & Susan Nash)
Dallas Polk (grandson of Chandra Fitzgerald)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

Walker/Hustad

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.

Music: SLANE, Irish tune

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7

Reader: A reading from 1st Samuel

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

⁶Samuel looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD."

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 23

Leader reads light print, congregation reads bold

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**



³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-9

Reader: A reading from Ephesians

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the ninth chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the



man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

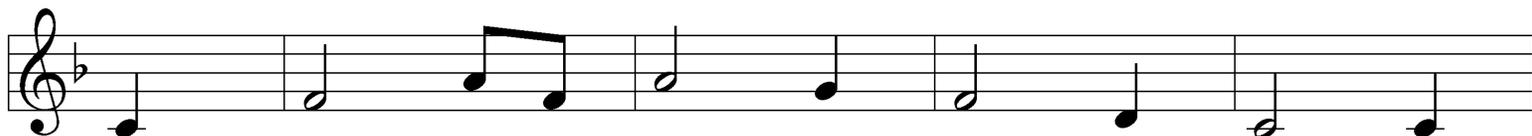
P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace
(Please see graphic next page)

ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

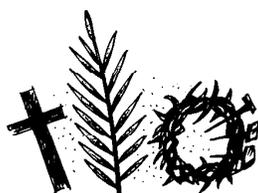
5 When we've been here ten thousand years, bright
shining as the sun, we've no less days to
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr, Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

NEW BRITAIN

CM



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen



THE PRAYERS

P With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all God's creation.

A brief silence. After each petition please respond: "Your will be done."

P We pray to the Lord,

C **Your will be done**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen**

MEAL

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

OFFERING

Meditation from Thais
(David Day, violin)

Jules Massenet

SENDING

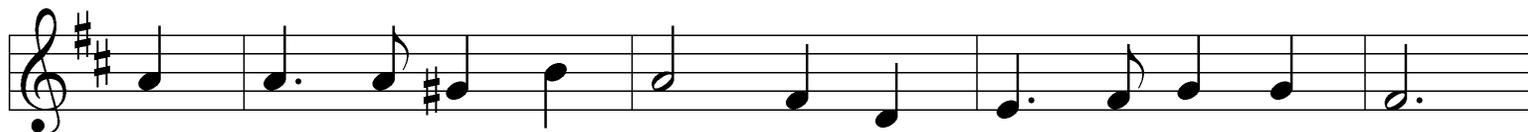
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

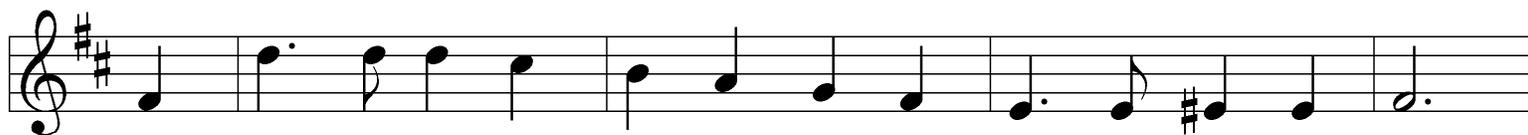
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
(Please see graphic next page)

ELW 338

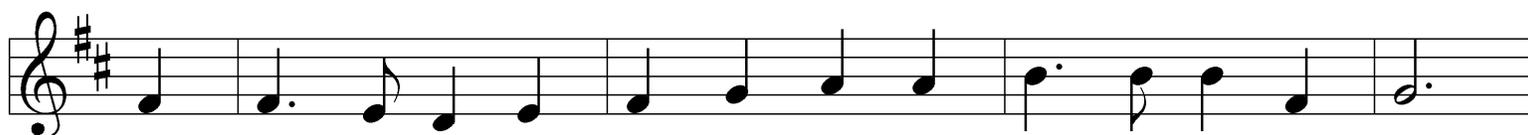




1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful

Walker/Hustad

We give thanks for those assisting with worship today . . .

Pastor
Violinist

Anna Anderson
David Day

Guest Organist
Videographer

Heidi Bessette
Eric Heigis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday night Lenten Service canceled. Evening Prayer and Soup Suppers are canceled; the meditation homily will be sent each Thursday with the "What's Happening at Advent" email. You can find several videos of the Holden Evening Prayer service online, or [listen to this one](#): www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARxY9I_PEik

Sunday Service will be streaming next week, March 29. Watch it on Facebook at 10 am. You can access the service [via Advent's website](#) (www.adventlc.us) and do not have to belong to FB. A link to the bulletin in the Thursday email. All are Welcome to join our virtual community!

Bagged meal program canceled. Lunches will not be made April 1 as A-SPAN has suspended distributions.

FROLIC! Our little ones will not meet April 5.

How can we help? As before, if you know of anyone who needs help, please [email the church office](#) (adventlc@hotmail.com) for forwarding to our volunteers.

Contributions. There are several ways that you can continue to contribute to the mission of Advent:

- by mail;
- Simply Giving ([print a form](#) - www.adventlc.us/forms);
- [online](#) (www.adventlc.us/giving);
- via the Give+ mobile app (search for "Advent Ev Lutheran Church")

GIVE+



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Anna Anderson, Pastor
Shane Gainer, Council President
Nancy Cox Jarrrels, Office Administrator

Email: adventlc@hotmail.com; **Website:** www.adventlc.us; **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/adventarlington

Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Please have bulletin announcements to the church office by 12 noon each Wednesday.

Emails for Pastor Anderson should be sent to pastor_anna2222@hotmail.com