

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

We are surrounded by symbolism during the holidays—the tree, the lights, a star, and more. This series explores other, less conventional symbols of the season and how they point us to our Advent hope and the promise of Christmas. *In addition to Sunday morning worship, join us for Advent services on Wednesdays (December 2, 9, and 16) at 10 am or 7 pm*.

P Pastor C **Congregation/All**
✢ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

✝

Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 343 *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Malachi 3:2*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P The day of the Lord is coming soon. The signs have been fulfilled.
C **But who can abide the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?**
P So that day does not surprise us unprepared, let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 He who is coming has come, born among us to live our life and die our death, and guarantee our resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

sentences adapted from Splendor Paternae Gloriae*, Ambrose of Milan, A.D. 340–397 with Isaiah 9:2 and "Arise, O Christian People" (*LSB *354:1, 4)*

P O Splendor of God's eternity glory, who brings forth light from Light,
C **Day of days, shine on us.**
P True Sun, illuminate us with heavenly grace and truth,
C **and pour the Holy Spirit into our senses.**
P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.**

While the number of candles is lit, all sing the following:

Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessèd Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

VERSE OF THE MONTH *2 Corinthians 9:10*

C **He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.**

✝

We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

ANTHEM *"Oh, Blest Is He that Came" by David von Kampen (8:00 am)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 64:1–9*

Isaiah speaks on behalf of God's people, calling for God to come down to earth to deliver His judgment. But rather than looking at our sinful guilt, Isaiah pleads for God's mercy.

[1]Oh that you would rend the heavens
and come down, that the mountains
might quake at your presence—[2] as
when fire kindles brushwood and the
fire causes water to boil—to make your
name known to your adversaries, and
that the nations might tremble at your
presence! [3]When you did awesome
things that we did not look for, you
came down, the mountains quaked at
your presence. [4]From of old no one has
heard or perceived by the ear, no eye
has seen a God besides you, who acts
for those who wait for him. [5]You meet
him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time,
and shall we be saved? [6]We have all be-
come like one who is unclean, and all
our righteous deeds are like a polluted
garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7]There is no one who calls upon your
name, who rouses himself to take hold
of you; for you have hidden your face
from us, and have made us melt in the
hand of our iniquities. [8]But now, O
LORD, you are our Father; we are the
clay, and you are our potter; we are all
the work of your hand. [9]Be not so terri-
bly angry, O LORD, and remember not
iniquity forever. Behold, please look,
we are all your people.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

Saint Paul comforts God's people with the Lord's faithful promise to sustain His people until the day when our Lord returns.

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4]I give thanks to my God always for
you because of the grace of God that
was given you in Christ Jesus, [5]that in
every way you were enriched in him in
all speech and all knowledge—[6]even as
the testimony about Christ was confirmed
among you—[7]so that you are not lack-
ing in any spiritual gift, as you wait for
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
[8]who will sustain you to the end, guilt-
less in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
[9]God is faithful, by whom you were
called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 11:1–10*

Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as the crowd shouts, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

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

[1]When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples [2]and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. [3]If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" [4]And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. [5]And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" [6]And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. [7]And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. [8]And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. [9]And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! [10]Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 334 *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

SERMON *Symbols of the Season: "Waving Palm Branches"*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

C **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.**

✝

Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 442 *"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

This week's takeaway: As we wait for Christ the King to return, we welcome Him with our presence, our praise, and our proclamation. Jesus continues to come to us through His Word and Sacraments, strengthening us with the forgiveness and salvation He won for us. This Advent, take time amid the busyness of the season to gather in worship, praise your Savior, and share the Good News that Christ has come, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again!

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*
Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Ben Nuelle, *Pianist (8:00 am)*
Lauryn Bonar, Ella Virus, Elijah Rankin, Kaleb Virus, *Vocal Ensemble (8:00 am)*
Henry Mills, Jace Heins, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Amelia Shafer, Eden Beissenherz, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Tim & Robin Kersiek, *Greeters (8:00 am)*
Kathy Schnakenberg, *Greeter (10:30 am)*
John Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Chris Gerdts, Andy Jones, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.
Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Ray Schuknecht, Carol Schlueter, Millie Shafer, Rick Heimsoth, Sandy Hinck, Daniel Schwiegert, Chet Fiene, Gloria Driver, Brenda Frerking, Rebecca Camp, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Annette Kirchhoff, Sarah McDaniel, Royce Herndon, Lisa Arnett, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos

Ongoing: Hudson Kloos, Kevin Crawford, Nicole Maxwell, Ann Wolters, Susan Reeves, Diane Stumpenhaus, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Jon Spells, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Angola

Partners in Mission: Calvary Lutheran Church; Kansas City, MO and Rev. Bryce Bereuter; Lutheran Church Charities

Birthdays: (11/30) Linda Bredehoeft, Zoey Eckhoff, Brandon Hinck, Brenna Meyer, Thea Sullivan; (12/1) Hannah Bingham, Benjamin Kuecker, Sara Larsen; (12/2) Ross Inman; (12/3) James Hemme, Jillian Mueller, Sarah Sullivan, Cara Wickens; (12/4) Rick Flandermeyer, Owen Isdell, Taylor Steinkuhler; (12/5) Nicole Brackman, Travis Lemmert, Eli Martens, Jonah Virus

Anniversaries: (11/29) Don & Beth Schlesselman; (11/30) Tim & Caroline Close, Roger & Glenda Fuchs; (12/3) Edward & Linda Kammeyer, Clint & Sarah Stuenkel; (12/4) Rolland & Joyce Beerman; (12/5) Jon & Amy Lange

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is Advent?

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the "New Year's Day" of the Church Year calendar.

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word Advent means "coming." During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

At home, in order to help your children better prepare for the birth of Jesus, try using an Advent devotional booklet provided by the church for family devotions.

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FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Thank God for being God! Maybe this recently celebrated Thanksgiving season was everything you had hoped it would be and more! Praise God for that! Maybe this Thanksgiving took some extra grace, patience, and strength as you dealt with family dynamics or an empty chair at the table. Maybe there are disagreements that still need to be resolved. Regardless of the "condition" of your Thanksgiving get togethers, it is comforting to know that our true thanksgiving rests in God himself. Through the triumphs **and** the trials, we thank God that he sent the gift of His Son. Even in the struggle of sin, we have been delivered through Christ, and because of this, exactly this, we are able to serve out of what we have been given. Blessed. Countless, numerous blessings that the Lord showers upon us each and every day, even though our circumstances may not ring the joy. How might gratitude change our perspective? St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:11, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. And through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."
(Reflections upon *We Thank God for God - Nov 23, 2026, Lutheran Church Charities)*

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 347, 344 (*My First Hymnal* 39),
352, 621, 353, 331 (*My First Hymnal* 38)

St. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

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