Advent Lutheran Church

13009 E. Broadway Avenue, Spokane Valley, Washington 99216
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www.adventlutheranspokane.org

"Called by God's Grace to Love and Serve"



ADVENT

Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

September 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome!

Welcome

We welcome everyone to worship on this wonderful day. May God bless our time together in Worship with Word and Sacrament.

If you are visiting with us today, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a *Welcome* card and place it in the offering plate. The reverse of this card can also be used for prayer requests, or other special needs.

Need Directions? Feel free to ask an usher if you need to find a restroom, or another particular room or group meeting here in the church building.

Cell phone off? – We respectfully ask that you silence your cell phone during worship this morning.

For hearing impaired: We now have four hearing receivers and two neck units. If you wish to use one, please see the person at the sound booth in the back of the Sanctuary.

THE LORD INVITES EVERYONE TO HIS TABLE

We Believe

Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine.

We receive forgiveness of sins and strength for Christian living.

We are renewed in faith with the promise of salvation and eternal life.

We Offer

Wine and grape juice (light colored glasses in center of trays) Bread (including gluten-free wafers)

Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good!

INTRODUCTION

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

ORDER OF WORSHIP September 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

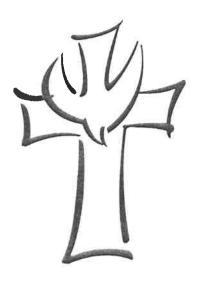
(Congregation please stand)

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

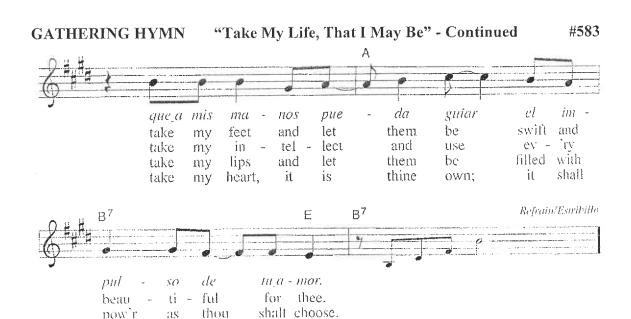
Silence for reflection

- P Gracious God,
- have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C Amen.





Continued on next page



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GREETING

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.



"GLORY TO GOD"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Let us pray, Direct us, O Lord God,
- in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Congregation please be seated)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

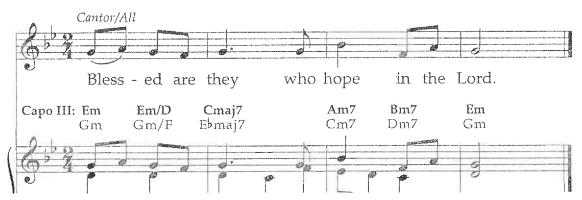
Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1



- Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent, but delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night.
- Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.
- He is like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does, prospers.
- Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.
- Not so the wicked, not so: they are like chaff which the wind drives away. For the LORD watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes.
- Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING Philemon 1–21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Congregation please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Singing, we rise to greet Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading



THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 14:25–33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Congregation please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Matthew Larson

(Congregation please stand)



P Let us proclaim our Christian faith:

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

 Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends, "God of grace," to which the congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

After the concluding prayer, respond with:

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

(Please be sensitive to those who wish to 'keep their hands to themselves.' Thank you.)

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

Share the peace of God with one another.

(Congregation please be seated)

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

#583

Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2: Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- Let us pray, Jesus, Bread of life,
- you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



The minister continues with the eucharistic prayer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

© Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

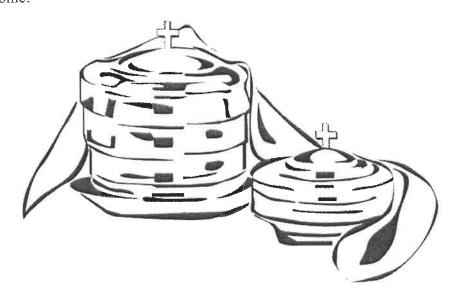
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(Congregation please be seated)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!



LAMB OF GOD



grant us

your peace.

your peace,

grant us

HOLY COMMUNION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION - All who believe Jesus Christ is present in this meal, offering forgiveness and new life, are welcome to the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are also available. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please ask an usher to tell the pastor – Holy Communion can be brought to you.

(Congregation please stand)

- May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.
- C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.
- C Amen.

(Congregation please be seated)

BLESSING OF OUR TEACHERS

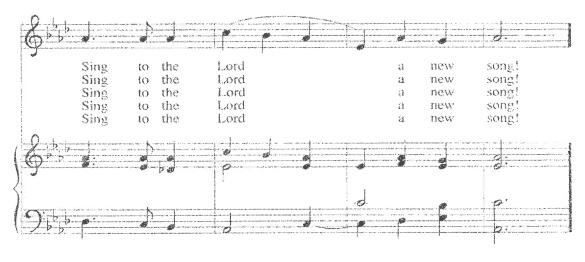
ANNOUNCEMENTS

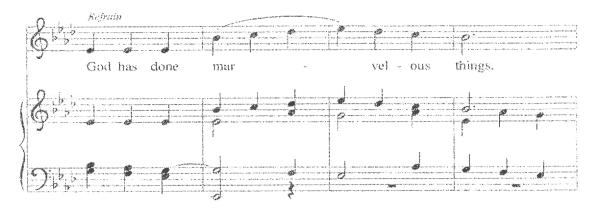
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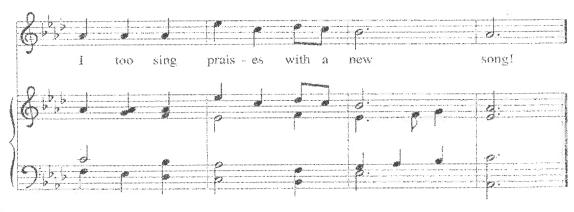
BENEDICTION

- The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, +be upon you now and forever.
- G Amen.









- As people of God, this is our mission at Advent:
- "Called by God's Grace to Love and Serve."

DISMISSAL

(God sends us to live as Christ's body in the world.)

- (A) Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship Today-9:30 am

Presiding Minister Pastor Matthew Larson
Preacher Pastor Matthew Larson
Assisting Minister Vicar Brendan Wiechert

Communion Assistants Karen Nelson, Carol Scheurer

Pianist Shirley Roraback

Musician Wes Todd
Cantor Liz Law
Reader Barb Potter

Greeter

Ushers Rick & Jodi Meddock

Audio/Video Ian Larson

Fellowship Hosts

Cookies Ann Koschalk Tellers McCune

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+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

New this Week: Prayers are needed for Belle Campbell and her family as they are mourning the passing of Belle's brother, Monty Montgomery.

Church Family and Friends: Ahern family, Ania, Barbara, Barney Barnhart & family, Harry & Manda Benton, Bolster family, Linda Bradford, Cherie, Dave & Sharon Cook, George & Sandy Coombs, Georgia Coulston, Genevieve Davenport, Bonnie Davis, Janet Esser, Nancy Filardo & family, Joyce Flanigan & family, Dorothy Grier, Leigh & Steve Hopkins, Mary & Clancy Howard, family of Audrey Jackson, Jay & Judy, Judy Jaramillo & family, Savannah Kelley, Midge Kiourkas, Larson family, Leatha family, Jan Madden & family, Duncan McMillan, McCune family & Donny, Megan, Ian & SaraLu Moore, Moseman family, Kathleen Naliboff, Craig Nurvic, Otteman family, Myrna Robb, Twila O'Gallagher, Gerry O'Rourke, Tim O'Rourke, Amaryllis & Ken Otteman, Jared & Cindy Pauletto, Myrna Rehn, Roger & Carol Scheurer, Tom Sernka & family, Eva Sturges, Tinch family, Isabel Toth, Rick Velategui, family of Margot Wilson, and Anna Yeoman.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:

CPT Ashley Allinger, Chaplain US Army, CPT Zane Allinger, USAF, CPL Damien Anderson, Major Ryan Baker, Majors Megan & Robert Barnwell, SGT Alex Baron, USAF, Capt. Jordon Bolster, SSgt. Andy Falk, Army, CPT Christopher Finch, Robert Guyton, CW2 Aaron Lang, Capt. Richard Luna III, USAF, MSgt. Duncan McFarlane, Bryan McGoon, SSG Aaron Moeller, Sam Nelson, Mst. Sgt. Alex Pohle, AF Staff Sgt. Garytt Shirey, Kurt Strigel, Colin Wells, U.S. Air Force, Ryan Wells, Master Sgt. AF Nat'l Guard Sarah Meddock, TSG Jason Wood, CPT Michael West, Staff SGT Jacob McKenzie, Major Stephen King, Airman Chase Strunk, U.S. Air Force, LCPL Jared Martin, Rafe Rector, USMC, Staff Sgt. Dan Zabriskie in the National Guard.

If you have a prayer request, please send an email to the church office at alcspokane@comcast.net or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.

Coming This Week: Sunday, September 7, 2025 - Sunday, September 14, 2025

SUNDAY 'BLESSING OF OUR TEACHERS'

9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

After Worship

Coffee Fellowship/Potluck

Council Table Talks

10:45 am High School Sunday School-Starbucks on Sprague

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Mt. Zion Romanian Church

MONDAY 8:30 am-9:30 am Fitness Class

4:00 pm Worship & Music Committee meeting

5:00 pm Council meeting 6:00 pm Boy Scouts

TUESDAY 9:00 am-12:00 pm Happy Piecemakers

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

6:00 pm Heads of Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY 8:30 am-9:30 am Fitness Class

11:00 am Child Center Chapel in the sanctuary

6:30 pm-7:30 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) meeting

THURSDAY 9:00 am Happy Helpers

10:00 am Mid-Week Bible Study

5:30 pm-6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY 7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast – Revel Community, 16807 E. Mission

Avenue, Spokane Valley

5:00 pm-6:00 pm 'Come to Friday Dinner'

SATURDAY 11:30 am Ladies Lunch at The Max at Mirabeau

SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

After Worship

Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am High School Sunday School-Starbucks on Sprague

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Mt. Zion Romanian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Worship: www.youtube.com/c/adventlutheranspokane

'BLESSING OF OUR TEACHERS' AND POTLUCK

Today during our worship service we will have a **Blessing of our Teachers** and families from the Child Center. Everyone is welcome to stay for a **potluck lunch** after worship.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Mid-Week Bible study will resume Thursday, September 11th, at 10:00 am.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Men's Prayer group continues to meet each Friday morning at 7:00 am at Revel Community, 16807 E. Mission Avenue, Spokane Valley. All men are welcome!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

In preparation for our **updated pictorial directory**, if you have **new contact** information, please submit it to the church office no later than **Friday**, **September 12th**. Thank you.

'COME TO FRIDAY DINNER'

Our next 'Come to Friday Dinner' will be on September 12 from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm. Menu: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, & green beans. If you are interested, please call the church office at 509-928-7733 or place your name and the number of meals you wish on the signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. EVERYONE welcome!

MONTHLY LADIES LUNCHEON

Our next luncheon will be September 13th at 11:30 a.m. at The Max at Mirabeau. This luncheon will be an extra special luncheon as we plan to celebrate Peggy Hinrichs 100th birthday! Please contact Gerry O'Rourke at 509-893-0787 no later than this Wednesday so a reservation may be made. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex or you may call the Church office at 509-928-7733.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

FALL CLEAN-UP DATE AT ADVENT

Saturday morning, September 20, is designated as Advent's Fall Clean—Up Day - from 9 AM to 12 PM. Questions? Please contact Forrest Diehl at 509-991-4736. If you are available, we would love to have you join us! Please bring your work gloves and any yard tools you wish to help spruce up the grounds of Advent. We will have a truck with a trailer to haul away brush clippings, weeds, leaves, and other debris. We also have a sign-up sheet on the table for areas you may wish to help with. Thank you.

'NEW FACES'

Pastor Matt will be doing an **orientation** on **September 21** for those who are new to our congregation. We will be meeting in the **classroom** after worship. If you have not come up and been introduced during a 'New Faces' Sunday, please come, we will have a 'New Faces' Sunday on September 28 during the worship service.

GOLDENAGERS' DAY OUT

Tuesday, September 23rd from 10am-2pm, the Goldenagers will be going to Camp Lutherhaven for the Fall Goldenagers' Day Out. Please meet at the church and ready to leave by 8:45 am and we will return by 2:45 pm. Lunch is included. We plan to carpool. Questions? Contact Linda Semmen at 509-389 -4191. Advent Lutheran Church will cover the costs for attendees.

SPOKANE VALLEY PARTNERS FOOD BANK

Thank you for your generosity in bringing your food donations for the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank as we continue to "FILL THE SHELF"!! You may place your food donations in the barrel in the Narthex. Thank you!