**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**AUGUST 25, 2024**

**9:00 A.M.**



***We Gather in Jesus’ Name***

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, **☩** the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

***Gathering Song*:** **“As the Deer”**

1: As the deer panteth for the water

So my soul longeth after Thee

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee

Chorus: You alone are my strength my shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee

2: You're my friend and You are my brother

Even though You are a King

I love You more than any other

So much more than anything

3: I want You more than gold or silver

Only You can satisfy

You alone are the real joy-giver

And the apple of my eye

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### *The Reading of God’s Word*

**First Reading:** **Joshua 24:1-2z, 14-18**

1Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2aAnd Joshua said to all the people, 14“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
 16Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22**

 15The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
  and God’s ears are open to their cry.
 16**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,**
  **to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**
 17The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
  and delivers them from all their troubles.
 18**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted**
  **and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**
 19Many are the troubles of the righteous,
  but the Lord delivers them from every one.
 20**God will keep safe all their bones;**
  **not one of them shall be broken.**
 21Evil will bring death to the wicked
  and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
 22**O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,**
  **and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20**

10Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
 18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John the 6th chapter.

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

**John 6:56-69**

[Jesus said,] 56“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.
 60When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”
 66Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

***Sermon***

***Hymn of the Day*** ***“Blessed Assurance” WOV #699***

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain*

This is my story, this is my song,

 praising my Savior, all the day long:

 this is my story, this is my song,

 praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,

 visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

 angels descending bring from above

 echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;

 I in my Savior am happy and blest,

 watching and waiting, looking above,

 filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

***Apostle’s Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 Intercession***

*(Each petition ends with... Merciful God,; the congregation responds:* ***receive ou*r *prayer****.)*

**Sharing of the Peace**

 The peace of the Lord be with you always.

 **And also with you.**

***The Offering*** *Please leave your offering on our website:* [https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco\_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG- jdxWYJMFGW lQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU\_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXv WIUz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y\_VCHQ6\_VCoE=&ver=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-%20jdxWYJMFGW%20lQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXv%20WIUz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3)

***Offertory Prayer***

Let us pray*…* Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him or offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT**

***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.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

***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.**

***Distribution***

 The body of Christ, given to you.

 The blood of Christ, shed for you.

***Prayer After Communion***

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. **Amen.**

***Blessing***

 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.  **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:*** ***“******Build Your Kingdom Here”***

1: Come set Your rule and reign

In our hearts again

Increase in us we pray

Unveil why we're made

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope

Like wildfire in our very souls

Holy Spirit come invade us now

We are Your church

We need Your pow'r in us

2: We seek Your kingdom first

We hunger and we thirst

Refuse to waste our lives

For You're our joy and prize

To see the captives' hearts released

The hurt the sick the poor at peace

We lay down our lives for heaven's cause

We are Your church

We pray revive this earth

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here

Let the darkness fear

Show Your mighty hand

Heal our streets and land

Set Your church on fire

Win this nation back

Change the atmosphere

Build Your kingdom here we pray

3: Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r

Reaching the near and far

No force of hell can stop

Your beauty changing hearts

You made us for much more than this

Awake the kingdom seed in us

Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

We are Your church

We are the hope on earth

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**OUR MISSION**

**+** To ***gather*** as God’s people and nurture one another

**+** To ***know*** the Word of God

**+** To ***grow*** in faith, love, and service

**+** To ***go*** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ

**SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Pastor The Rev. Matthew Ollikainen

Music Director Michael Dettra

Lay Reader John Flint

Communion Assistant Kristi Ward

Fellowship Time OPEN

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar Flowers are both presented by the Hoffmann’s to the Glory of God.

**NUEVA CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT**

Support of Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for this week is presented to the Glory of God.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, August 11 = 32 + 1 online = 33

**SUMMER SCHEDULE ZOOM INFORMATION**

9:00 am Worship Service

Meeting ID: 815 4518 6885 Passcode: 500201

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81545186885?pwd=SFA1Q2lISnB4dE9MSzJlSjNRNzI4dz09

**CONTACTING PASTOR MATT**

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at215-859-3778 or email him at pastor@adventrichboro.org. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.



**GOD SIGHTINGS**

Have you seen God at work in your life, or in nature, a neighbor, etc.? Please add to our God Sightings chain by writing down the ways that you see God in your life. Use the strips of paper found in the narthex. Take them home to write your sightings down daily, or do it right at church. They will be stapled onto the chain (or you can staple them yourself). We will continue to add to it until Reformation Sunday, October 27. Let’s see how many times we can circle the sanctuary!

**FINANCIAL REPORT**





**BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

On Sunday, September 1, Advent students are invited to bring their backpack, lunchboxes, or whatever they will be carrying to school for a special blessing for the upcoming school year. We also invite teachers to also come forward for a blessing (feel free to bring your teacher’s bag if you would like).

**Our Flea Market is just weeks away…**

**If you are still looking to “declutter/downsize items**

**in your living space”, please consider joining us and**

**participating in this event.**

On **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**, Advent Lutheran Church is holding a **FLEA MARKET** in the church parking lot from 9 am to 1 pm. This is a rain or shine event (held indoors in the event of rain) for church members, friends, neighbors and members of the community to sell/buy items, or just browse. Water and soft pretzels will be available at the flea market at a cost of $1.00 each.

Flea Market Registration Forms (with detailed information) can be found on the round table in the church

Narthex or on the church’s website at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.org. A $10.00 non-refundable

registration fee must accompany your registration. Registrations will be accepted until the deadline of

September 8, 2024, or until spaces are no longer available (participants must supply their own table to

display their sale items).

We look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market and helping you “declutter/downsize” items you no

longer can use but that others may. Contact Flea Market coordinators (Kathy Sitler (215-589-5423)

or Cime Eklund (503-502-7691) with any questions that you may have regarding the Flea Market.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this church-sponsored event.

**MITCH MCVICKER IN CONCERT AT ADVENT - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 P.M.**

Advent is again pleased to have Mitchell McVicker, Christian recording artist, with us in concert on Wednesday, October 2, at 7 p.m. McVicker's concerts are little like Mark Twain meets MacGyver. His quirky and inventive approach includes insightful song lyrics, unconventional instruments, and profound storytelling. His concert connects the everyday with the otherworldly. McVicker’s theology is daringly simple - God’s love washes over and through us regardless of our circumstances and situations. Come out for an evening of enjoyable and inspirational music. A free will offering will be taken.

**UPDATE ON THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH’S WEBSITE**

 The rebuilding of our Church’s website is well underway. This is a multi-step process, working with Heather Traum, owner, and Lisa Baker, creative director, of Janus Advertising. They joined us in worship on Sunday, July, 28, to discuss the website’s conceptual design. Based on feedback from the congregation, they then created the design concept, which Pastor Matt presented at worship on August 11, 2024.

 Updates will be given and further congregational feedback will be sought as we move forward. Please engage in this important work as we proceed through its development. The goal is to have the new website launched by the end of November.

 Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling $14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over $5,200 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

**A NOTE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR WEBSITE**

Did you know that 7.5 million people search for a “church near me” every month? Also, 8.2 million people search for “things to do” in their area? 91% of these people never go past page one on google. We need to be near the top of any list generated to be noticed! Let’s strive to be #1!

**Church Security**

The church is regularly left unsecure as the external doors are left unlocked and/or unlatched when closed. The external doors do not always automatically latch when they swing shut.   When leaving the church building, please tug the door behind you to check that it has latched.  If you possess a church key and are the last key bearer to leave the church (i.e. Non-key bearing people may still be in the building), please check and lock the external doors upon leaving. Thank you for your attentiveness.

**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION**

There are numerous dates available in the remainder of 2024 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is $25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey at 267-205-0713.

**DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Were you aware that not everyone can bake? Or that time is often at a premium? Or that some of us can’t always be in church in person? If these questions have plagued you and perhaps you wish you could help at fellowship time more often than you do, you aren’t alone. For that reason, and so we don’t lose fellowship time altogether, consider donating a few dollars now and then and let someone else do the shopping/baking. All those hungry snackers will appreciate it!

**PRAYER CHAIN**

On Sundays we add names to the prayer list to pray out loud for those in need. This differs from the prayer chain. On Sundays, we only ask for names without specifics, though God always knows what is in our hearts. For the prayer chain, more specifics can be prayed for (as much as you want to share). These prayers are confidential, known only to the prayer chain members. Each person added is kept on the list for 4 weeks, with the exception of those who need ongoing prayer, which we keep on until circumstances change. If you wish to add a name to the prayer chain, please fill out a yellow prayer card found in the pews or you can call or email Gail Oines at the church office with your request. If you would like to become a prayer chain member, please also let Gail Oines know.

**Lost Necklace**

A necklace of value was lost at the church and has gone unclaimed for over a year.  Please contact Pastor Matt if you lost a necklace.

**NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which does vital ministry in North Philadelphia. A sign-up chart is on the table in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary.

**THIS WEEK AT ADVENT**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

 9:00 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion

 10:00 am Fellowship Time: OPEN

**MONDAY, AUGUST 26**

 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

 9:00 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion

 Guest Worship Leader, Deacon Gail Oines

 10:00 am Fellowship Time: OPEN