

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 10, 2024
9:30 A.M.**



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

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,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose, so rich a crown

Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here by grace, draw near and bless Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here by grace, draw near and bless Your name

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

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Sermon

Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

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 the Church

(Each prayer ends with ... *Hear us, O God. The congregation responds: **Your mercy is great.***)

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_lQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... **Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.**

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

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

Let us pray... Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

Sending

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: "Still the Cross"

Sometimes it seems the world's unraveling around us
We fear it all may one day come undone
We can't forget the One who came before us
To forgive the past and bring hope for what's to come

When it all comes crashing down
The cross still stands alone
And on this our faith is built
And our courage is made strong

When the world falls apart
And you fear for your heart

There's a tower of peace
It's still the cross

So bring your sick and your poor
And your longing for more
To the place of relief
It's still the cross
There is hope for the lost
It's still the cross

Sometimes it seems that I have been forgotten
I don't know how I will make it on my own
But the One who said I will never be forsaken
He still hears my prayer and I will never be alone

When it all comes crashing down
The cross still stands alone
And on this our faith is built
And our courage is made strong

When the world falls apart
And you fear for your heart
There's a tower of peace
It's still the cross

So bring your sick and your poor
And your longing for more
To the place of relief
It's still the cross
There is hope for the lost
It's still the cross

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.
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 E Ollikainen
 Music Director Michael Dettra



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Janice Hoffmann in loving memory of her father, Howard Bobb, Sr.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 3, 8:00 am 16, 9:30 am 25, S.S. 5 TOTAL 46

Financial Report For February 2024		
	Rec'vd for Feb 2024	Budget fo
General Fund	\$9,812.13	
Mortgage	\$1,406	
Bene. - Synod Only	\$25	
Other Benevolence	\$506	
Total	\$11,749.13	
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-2/29/24	Budget YT
General Fund	\$20,682.76	
Mortgage	\$2,914.00	

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 phone 215-859-3778 or by email at pastor@adventrichboro.org. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

PASTOR MATT ON VACATION APRIL 2 TO APRIL 9

Pastor Matt will be out of the office for vacation starting Tuesday, **April 2, and returning Tuesday, April 9.** Emergency pastoral contact information will be posted as the time gets closer.

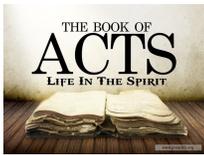
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS/READERS/COMMUNION ASSISTANT TRAINING, SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Please consider sharing your gifts with us as a **Worship Assistant, Lay Reader or Communion Assistant**. Also, if you know a male or female youth who may be interested in being an acolyte, we could use them, too. As we approach this most holy of seasons, please add serving the Lord to your list of things to try. Pastor (and I hope I) will be training any who would like to volunteer as a Worship Assistant/Lay Reader/Communion Assistant, after the 9:30 worship service on **March 17**.
Gail Oines, Deaconess



SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS IN MARCH – NO CLASS ON EASTER SUNDAY

During Lent, our Bible lessons will range from joyful and celebratory for our Palm Procession lesson to focused and solemn as Jesus prayed at Gethsemane and celebrated The Last Supper with his disciples. The lesson videos are well designed and offer insight into the Bible figures and decisions they've made. As we lead up to the events of Jesus' death on the cross, students will look forward to celebrating his resurrection in the worship service on Easter Sunday. In April, we will turn our attention to some of the powerful events of the Old Testament.



BOOK of ACTS BIBLE STUDY

The first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan will continue through Lent. We will be doing the eight weekly sessions of the **Book of Acts Bible Study, which will then continue after lent starting, with Zoom at noon Tuesday, April 9**. "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate. You

can still participate, even if you haven't up until now.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding to our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help you recognize God's love in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule:

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home.
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9 AM.
- **Zoom at Noon** on Tuesdays with Pastor Matt.
- **Solo Study** with the email curriculum or the printed version available on Sunday morning.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Service** Thursdays during Lent online or in-person.

Please sign up in the narthex or by calling/emailing the Church. God bless you this coming Lenten Season as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.



MID-WEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Gather at church during the season of Lent for soup and fellowship before the mid-week Lenten worship service. The Soup Suppers will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the all-purpose room, on **Thursdays** through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES, THURSDAYS IN LENT THROUGH MARCH 21

"Book of Acts" is the theme for worship this season of Lent, in the all-purpose room. Mid-week Lenten Worship services may also be attended by **Zoom** and will be live streamed on **Facebook**. A recording of the services will be uploaded to **YouTube** and linked to

our website immediately after the service concludes. While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays in Lent thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920



MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 P.M.

Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion, will be held on March 28, AT 7:00 p.m. Service can be attended in person or via Zoom. Service will be live streamed on Facebook. A recording of the service will be uploaded to You Tube and linked to our website immediately after the service concludes.

Zoom attendance: 7:00 p.m. Topic: Maundy Thursday, March 28

Meeting ID: 842 3370 0194 Passcode: 717654

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233700194?pwd=dEl2S1d3cDR4L3kiTlYwOTNkdUJSUTo9>



ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29 AT NOON

All are welcome to The Ecumenical Stations of the Cross, at **Noon on Friday, March, 29**, hosted by St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, in Richboro on behalf of the North/Southampton, Wrightstown Ministerium.

St. Vincent De Paul is located at 654 Hatboro Road, Richboro, 18954.

Local clergy and lay leaders share in leading this moving and impactful community experience.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, MARCH 29, 7:00 P.M.

Service of Tenebrae will be held on Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Service can be attended in person or via Zoom. Service will be live streamed on Facebook.

A recording of the service will be uploaded to You Tube and linked to our website immediately after the service concludes:

Zoom attendance: 7:00 p.m. Topic: Good Friday, March 29

Meeting ID: 814 5860 0504 Passcode: 420589

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81458600504?pwd=Y2NUVWRjSWNJYlI5U1NjdWFzbnMzZz09>



EASTER LILIES

The sign-up sheet to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter Sunday is on the table in the narthex until **March 23**. Cost is \$15 per plant. You can call or email the office with your request 215-355-2529 /adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com



PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).

PRAISE BAND AND VOCAL CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Praise Band practices from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, Vocal Choir from 7:15 to 8:00 p.m. Please see Mike Dettra for more details.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are numerous dates available for 2023 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 267-205-0713.



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.



DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 10

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
- 9:00 am Bible study “Book of Acts”
with George Henry
- 9:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School, age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:30 am Church Council Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 11

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- 6:30-7:15 pm Praise Band Practice
- 7:15-8:00 pm Vocal choir Practice

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm Lenten Worship Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 17

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship with
Holy Communion
- 9:00 am Bible study “Book of Acts”
with George Henry
- 9:30 am Contemporary Worship Service with
Holy Communion
Sunday School, age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open