## Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025 8:00 AM



### LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP ORDER OF WORSHIP

### **GATHERING**

**Prelude** (a time for silent meditation)

#### **Announcements**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

### **Confessions and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Most merciful God.

C: we confess that we are in bondage 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.

#### C: Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 5on, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen.

# Gathering Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

### **LBW 315**



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

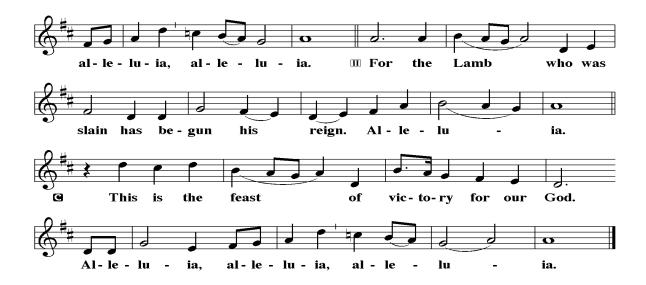
### Greeting

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.

## Hymn of Praise





### Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### **WORD**

# First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm: Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
- <sup>6</sup> who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- 9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
- <sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 young men and maidens, old and young together.
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God, Word of Life.

### C: Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation



**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the  $13^{th}$  chapter.



## Gospel: John 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## P: The Gospel of the Lord.



#### Sermon

## Hymn of the Day: "Bind Us Together"

**WOV 748** 

#### **Chorus**

Bind us together Lord Bind us together with cords That cannot be broken Bind us together Lord Bind us together Lord Bind us together with love

#### Verse 1

There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we can sing *Chorus* 

#### Verse 2

You are the fam'ly of God You are the promise divine You are God's chosen desire You are the glorious new wine *Chorus* 

#### 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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

### Prayer of the Church

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

# Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

## The Offering

Please leave your offering on our website: <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home">https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home</a>

# The Offertory



# Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray... Merciful Father
C: 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
who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

### **SACRAMENT**

# The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

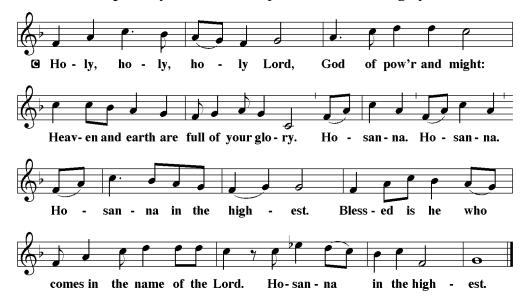
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...stays (preface continues with words for the season and concludes...) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

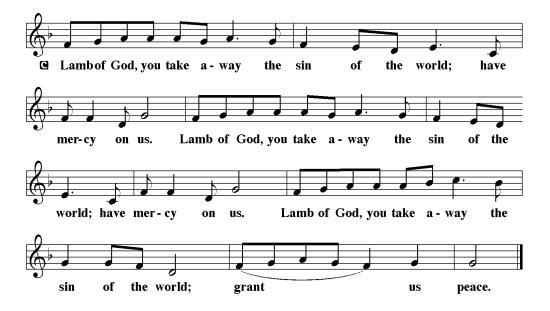
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.



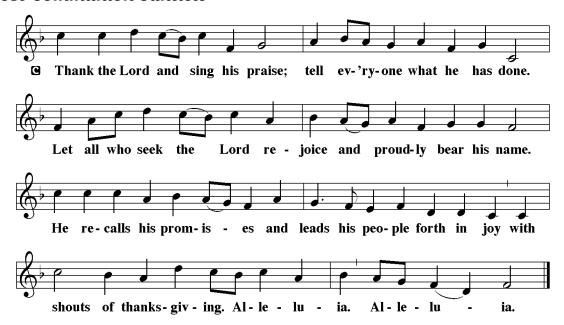
#### Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.** 

### **Post-Communion Canticle**



# **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray... Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

### Benediction

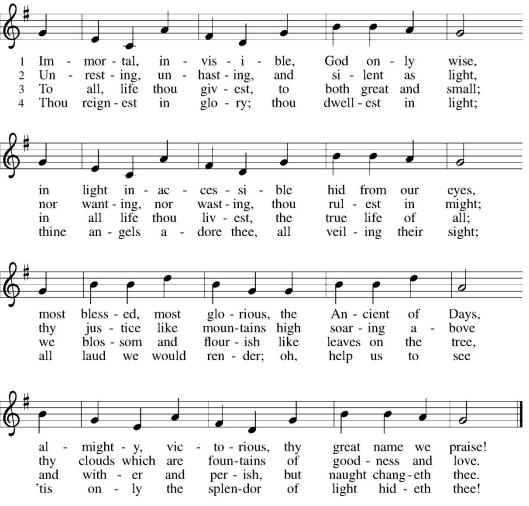
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

C: Amen.

### Sending Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

LBW **526** 



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

### Dismissal

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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#### **OUR MISSION - FAITHFUL IN THE WORD**

- + 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
Lay Reader David Elkin
Communion Assistant Janice Hoffmann
Fellowship Time Celebration for Pastor Matt & Debbie

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Cindy Frey in honor of the birthday of her grandson, Alex.

#### MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

## LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, May 11 TOTAL: 42

8:00 AM: 11+2=13 9:30 AM: 26+1=28 Sunday School: 2



# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE - BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 25

Beginning next Sunday, May 25:

- \* Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 AM on Sundays through Labor Day, September 7.
- \* Services will still be live-streamed and uploaded on YouTube.
- \* Both Sunday School (after May 18) and Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall.

#### **COMMUNION REMINDER**

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

### THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM - RESUMING MAY 29

Thursday Night Bible Study with Pastor Matt will resume on Thursday, May 29, at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link and more information will be sent via email and posted in the bulletin the week of May 29.

### **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 at 215-859-3778 or email him at <a href="mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org">pastor@adventrichboro.org</a>.

If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

### **DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES**

Payments for dedications may be made using the marked envelopes by the sign-up charts.

Please place payment in the offering plate or mail payment to the church at

45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954.

Please write check to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church

and write **Altar Flowers** or **Mission Support** in the memo line on your check.

#### **2025 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART**

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

The 2025 Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529



2025 MISSION SUPPORT

#### **FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION**

Communion is a gift from God, allowing us to receive His grace, nourish our faith, and more fully participate in the life of the Church.

Advent will offer First Holy Communion instruction every other Sunday for 4 weeks, beginning Sunday, June 1, 2025. Parents of baptized children, grade 5 and older are encouraged to register their child by completing an online registration form at <a href="https://forms.gle/2uNSDtbybWxXktVs7">https://forms.gle/2uNSDtbybWxXktVs7</a>. Hard copy registration forms are also available in the narthex. Please call the church office at 215-355-2529 with any questions.

If your child is younger than grade 5, and you would like to discuss enrolling them, please call the church office to speak with Pastor Matt. Decisions on younger children will be made on a case-by-case basis.

#### PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of volunteers at Advent who pray every day, confidentially, for people added to the Prayer Chain. Names are maintained for one month unless asked to be removed earlier.

To add names to the Prayer Chain:

- \* Complete a Prayer Request Card found in the pews of the sanctuary. Please place completed cards in the offering plate, or
- \* Submit names by email directly to Linda Weaver at lindaweaver3@comcast.net.

If you would like to be a Prayer Chain volunteer, please contact Linda Weaver to be added to the email list.

#### **DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:00 AM service. The sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time is available in the narthex on the refreshment table. Advent supplies hot beverages and paper products.

If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars.

The hungry snackers will appreciate it!

#### DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION - WARMINSTER FOOD BANK

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Check their website for the most current needs: <a href="https://www.warminsterfoodbank.org">www.warminsterfoodbank.org</a>. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

### RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR RONALD McDonald House Charities

We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child's healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!

#### APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For Apr	il 2025	
	Rec'vd for April 2025	Budget for April 2025
General Fund	\$18,739.93	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,344	\$1,898.00
Bene Synod Only	\$70	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$520	
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$20,673.93	\$20,640.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-4/30/25	Budget YTD 1/1-4/30/25
General Fund	\$50,016.56	\$74,436.00
Mortgage	\$5,618.00	\$7,592.00
Bene Synod Only	\$235.00	\$532.00
Other Benevolence	\$2,226.00	
Web Upgrade	\$450.00	
Total	\$58,545.56	\$82,560.00

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## CELEBRATION OF PASTOR MATT AND DEBBIE'S WEDDING Sunday, May 18, following the 9:30 AM service



They do! Advent will host a special celebration of Pastor Matt and Debbie's wedding on Sunday, May 18, following the 9:30 AM worship service. Come and celebrate the newlyweds and surround them with the love and support of Advent! Light refreshments will be served.

# CHURCH PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE

Monday, June 2 (Rain Date: Tuesday, June 3)



Advent's parking lot is scheduled to be seal-coated on Monday, June 2. (Rain Date will be Tuesday, June 3). Per the seal-coating company, the lot will be safe for driving/parking on the third day. Therefore, if the work is done on Monday, the parking lot can be used on Wednesday. If the work is done on Tuesday, the parking lot can be used on Thursday.

Any groups or organizations that have scheduled events on Monday and Tuesday, (or Tuesday and Wednesday, if it rains) will need to reschedule, or park on the grass-line along the street.

# DETTRA MENTAL SPRING CONCERT Friday, June 6, 2025, 7:30 PM



Come and hear the beautiful sounds of the Caribbean and beyond with Advent Music Director, Mike Dettra and The Dettra Mental Quartet. Mike performs popular island music, old and new, with his band on marimba and steel pan. The show is free to attend but free-will cash donations are appreciated!

# THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

# SUNDAY, MAY 18 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM	Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 AM	Contemporary Holy Communion
	Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6 – last class until the fall
10:30 AM	Fellowship Time: Celebration of Pastor Matt and Debbie's wedding

# **MONDAY, MAY 19**

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

# **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20**

5:30 PM	<b>Praise Band Practice</b>
6:15 PM	<b>Vocal Choir Practice</b>

# FRIDAY, MAY 22

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

# SUNDAY, MAY 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter Summer Worship Schedule Begins

9:00 AM Single Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Time: Open

