Third Sunday of Easter May 4, 2025 9:30 AM



GATHERING

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia**!

Confessions and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies. I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted. The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 30

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

- ⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- ¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."
- ¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21st chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 21:1-19

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Lord, you when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Be Unto Your Name"

 We are a moment You are forever Lord of the ages God before time We are a vapor You are eternal Love everlasting reigning on high

Chorus

Holy holy Lord God Almighty Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain Highest praises honor and glory Be unto Your name Be unto Your name

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 We are the broken You are the healer Jesus Redeemer mighty to save You are the love song we'll sing forever Bowing before You blessing Your name

Ending

Be unto Your name (REPEAT)

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

Prayers of Intercession

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: https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray... C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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.

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.

C: 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					
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.

Prayer after Communion

P: 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. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "God of All"

Verse

God of all mercy God of all grace God of all glory and fame Wonderful Counselor Savior my friend Your Kingdom it has no end And forever You reign And forever You reign

Chorus

Oceans cry out and the stars declare Who You are who You are All of the splendors of Heaven unveil

Dismissal

Who You are who You are Lord You are Lord You are

Bridge

You are King of kings You are Lord of lords You are Everlasting You are Prince of Peace You are Mighty God You are never-changing Lord You are

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 Music Director Lay Reader Communion Assistant Fellowship Time The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen Michael Dettra Bruce Eklund Kristi Ward Web Site Launch Party

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Lynn Roccograndi in honor of his mom, Elsie's birthday.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated by Lynn Roccograndi in honor of his mom, Elsie's birthday.

LAST SU	JNDA	Y'S W	/orsi	HIP ATTENDANCE
-	-			

Sunday, April 27	TOTAL: 39
8:00 AM: 8+1=9	9:30 AM: 27+1=28

Sunday School: 2

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.



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 <u>pastor@adventrichboro.org</u>. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

PASTOR MATT ON VACATION - CORRECTION FROM MAY NEWSLETTER

Pastor Matt will be on vacation from Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 17. While Pastor is on vacation, if you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Sandra Brown at 215-680-3972

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.

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 **2025 MISSION SUPPORT** 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



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 https://forms.gle/2uNSDtbybWxXktVs7. 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 <u>lindaweaver3@comcast.net</u>.

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 9:30 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: <u>www.warminsterfoodbank.org</u>. 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!*

Financial Report For March 2025						
	Rec'vd for March 2025	Budget for March 2025				
General Fund	\$9,591.93	\$18,609.00				
Mortgage	\$1,499	\$1,898.00				
Bene Synod Only	\$50	\$133				
Other Benevolence	\$75					
Web Upgrade	\$250					
Total	\$11,465.93	\$20,640.00				
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-3/31/25	Budget YTD 1/1-3/31/25				
General Fund	\$31,276.63	\$55,827.00				
Mortgage	\$4,274.00	\$5,694.00				
Bene Synod Only	\$165.00	\$399.00				
Other Benevolence	\$1,706.00					
Web Upgrade	\$450.00					
Total	\$37,871.63	\$61,920.00				

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

LAUNCH PARTY FOR ADVENT'S NEW WEB SITE Sunday, May 4, 10:30 am



Come celebrate the launch of Advent's new web site!

The new site was designed and developed over the past year with Janus Advertising. This project required a great amount of effort and collaboration. We are truly grateful to Heather, Lisa, Jen, and staff at Janus Advertising for going above and beyond to create our amazing new site. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the web site committee which included Katie Dettra, Mike Sitler and Pastor Matt. Thank you to the many people who spent

countless hours assisting the committee, including Cindy Frey, Jeanne Gryszka, and Tony Gryszka. Thank you to the church council for their support and participation. Thank you also to everyone in the congregation who participated in surveys and provided feedback throughout the development. Finally, thank you to all who donated money to help fund this important endeavor. Let's celebrate this wonderful accomplishment!

Light refreshments will be served.

Advent's Annual Spring Property Clean Up Saturday, May 10, 9:00-11:00 AM



Advent's annual spring cleanup will be on Saturday morning, May 10, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate! Suggested items to bring include work gloves, brooms, rakes, gardening tools, hedge trimmers, tree pruners, and weed whackers. We will be concentrating on weeding the gardens, applying mulch, and general cleanup. Yard waste bags will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, MAY 4 - Third Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion
- Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Web Site Launch Party

MONDAY, MAY 5

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 6

6:30 PM Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

- 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice
- 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice

FRIDAY, MAY 9

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 10

- 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Annual Advent Spring Property Clean Up until 12:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter Happy Mother's Day!

9:00 AM Single Worship Service – Liturgy of the Word No Communion
 Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
 10:00 AM Fellowship Time: Open

