

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
9:30 a.m.



GATHERING

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

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Gathering Song: "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

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 . . . Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

Children's Sermon

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had

beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “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

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 our 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-LCajFevTkh9MYPCLmH2sG-idxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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. . . Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

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 Song: “More Love, More Power”

More love, more power
More of You in my life
More love, more power
More of You in my life

And I will worship You, with all of my heart
I will worship You, with all of my mind
I will worship You, with all of my strength
For You are my Lord

More love, more power
More of You in my life

More love, more power
More of You in my life


And I will seek Your face, With all of my heart
And I will seek Your face, With all of my mind
And I will seek Your face, With all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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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
Worship Assistant	John Flint

GUEST REGISTER

If you are visiting with us today, please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

NUEVA CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 12 8:00 am 13 9:30 am 25 Sunday School 0 **Total 38**

Financial Report For February 2023		
	Rec'vd for February 2023	Budget for February 2023
Current	\$9,551.53	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$2,191	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$44	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$817	
Total	\$14,778.43	\$19,313.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-2/28/23	Budget YTD 1/1-2/28/23
Current	\$21,353.96	\$34,562.00
Mortgage	\$4,772.00	\$3,796.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$154.00	\$268.00
Other Benevolence	\$1,102.00	
Total	\$27,381.96	\$38,626.00



MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Gathering at church during the season of Lent for soup and fellowship, before the midweek Lenten worship service. The Soup Suppers will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the social hall on **Thursdays, March 23 & 30.** Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES CONTINUE ON THURSDAYS: MARCH 23 & 30 - 7 PM

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, is the theme for worship this season of Lent. We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Based on the hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus" (ELW 338), this series explores what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Services will be held in person and on Zoom, **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., March 23 & 30.** While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Meeting ID: 864 7772 3021 Pass code: 443360

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86477723021?pwd=cEFHd2hxYoxMRVJPT2hCQjQ5MnF2Zz09>



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

Lutheran World Relief is coordinating an emergency response to our neighbors in Turkey devastated by the earthquake.

We are being asked to donate to the emergency response fund so they can deliver critically needed care for families like water, medical care, shelter and essential supplies.

Please send your donations to Advent marked with earthquake relief and it will be sent in to Lutheran World Relief or give online at lwr.org/quake or mail a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061.** Please write QUAKE in the memo.

Thank you for leading our congregation to share God's love with the world when it's needed most.



PING PONG TUESDAY NIGHTS

We are playing Ping Pong weekly on Tuesday nights, starting at **6:30 pm** and ending around 8 pm. All are invited. No equipment is required. Please contact Ray Heiss if you plan to give it a try (rayheiss1@gmail.com)



CHOIR AND PRAISE BAND PRACTICES

Practices of the Choir and Praise Band are on **Wednesday evenings March 29 and April 5.** **Praise Band practice is at 6:30 and Vocal Choir practice is at 7:15.** All are welcome and encouraged to join, no prior experience is necessary. Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director or

Pastor Matt for more details.



EASTER LILIES

The sign-up sheet to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter Sunday is on the table in the narthex until **April 2**. Cost is \$15 per plant. You can call or email the office with your request 215-355-2529/office@adventrichboro.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 24 – 28

The dates have been set for Vacation Bible School at Advent this summer!

The week of July 24 – 28, Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m.–noon will feature **OPERATION RESTORATION** for students age 4 through completion of grade 6. Learning with friends makes

Bible School fun! As they make connections between Bible stories and actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life, such as feed, heal, forgive, pray and rest. Students will employ art, music, science and storytelling in this creative program, along with outdoor play and a snack each day! Registration forms will be available on March 12.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through August is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



STITCH CLUB ITEMS AVAILABLE

Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum 215-962-9032 or Jeff Jobses 215-355-4149.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 19

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
- Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: The Dettra Family
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Study

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

10:00 am Stitch Club

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 26

8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 am Adult Bible Study