

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 30, 2023  
9:00 A.M.



**GATHERING**

**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 greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have hurt our community.**  
**We have squandered your blessings.**  
**We have hoarded your bounty.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of † Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song: “God of Grace and God of Glory” LBW 415**

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow’r;  
crown your ancient church’s story;  
bring its bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.
  
- 2 Lo! The hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days,
  
- 3 Cure your children’s warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,  
let us miss your kingdom’s goal.
  
- 4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**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 . . . Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

***Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136***

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
<sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**  
<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.  
<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**  
<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**  
<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.  
<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

***Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39***

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

**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

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

### ***Apostles' 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... Hear us, O God.*

*the congregation responds: **Your mercy is great.**)*

### ***Sharing of the Peace***

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And, also with you.**

***The Offering*** Please leave your offering on our website: [https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCLmH2sG-jdxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar20939JWiAad8707zqy-JU_UuLui9bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHO6_VCoE=&ver=3)

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### ***Offertory Prayer***

Let us pray... **God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.**

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

### ***Words of Institution***

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. . . We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” LBW 221**

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
  
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share God’s love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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### **SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER**

Children's Sunday School classes will begin on September 17, concurrent with the 9:30 a.m. worship service. New students are welcome! Our weekly Bible lessons will be based on the popular *Holy Moly* curriculum. Its creative short videos bring the Bible stories to life for students age 4 through grade 6. The lessons are written in rhyme and illustrated in graphic novel style.

Learning together is fun! Look for a registration form in the church foyer or narthex to sign up, or you may request a form via email or mail. Student books and crafts will be ordered in August. Please contact the church office with any questions: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org) or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



### **COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a group affirmation of baptism during the 9:30 service. You are welcome if you were baptized as an infant or as an adult. During the ceremony, we will learn the significance of our baptism. We will also learn what it means in our walk with Christ and our relationship with the Holy Spirit. If you have not been baptized or do not know if you were baptized, please talk to Pastor Matt. We want everyone to be a part of this joyful event. So, save the date – September 24.



### **ADVENT'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023**

Please plan to attend as we will be celebrating this milestone with a single worship service that morning, followed by a meal and brief program in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend, so inform your family and friends! More information will be shared during the summer. Thank you.



### **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

During the summer months we will switch back to food donations. Since the children are no longer getting meals at school, families need support to prepare extra meals. All contributions are greatly appreciated. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org).

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors in need.  
Nancy Slight



### **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 CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT**

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, 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.



### **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. A list of the Food Bank's most needed items is in the narthex or on the website [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org). Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



### **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 Jobs 215-355-4149.

### **THIS WEEK AT ADVENT**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 30**

- 9:00 am Summer Worship Service with  
Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: Bible School

#### **MONDAY, JULY 31**

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

#### **10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 6**

- 9:00 am Summer Worship Service with  
Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: Open