

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
February 23, 2025
9:00 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

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.

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.
Amen.

Gathering Song:
“How Good, Lord, to be Here”

LBW 89

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.</p> <p>2 How good, Lord, to be here!
your beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.</p> <p>3 Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified
and our redemption see.</p> | <p>4 Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.</p> <p>5 How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.</p> |
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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

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Sermon

The Reading of God’s Word

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the

famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart’s desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling"

WOV 734

- 1** Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.
- 2** Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- 3** Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and
pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

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... God of Grace.

*The congregation responds: **hear 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://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **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.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution

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

Prayer After Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **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: “Thank you for Hearing Me”

- 1 Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me
- 2 Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me

(Instrumental Interlude)

- 3 Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.
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
Lay Reader	Bruce Eklund
Communion Assistant	Joyce Heiss
Fellowship Time	Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Vicki Flint in honor of John Flint's birthday.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, February 16 TOTAL: 43
 8:00 AM: 12+2=14 9:30 am: 28+1=29 Sunday School: 0

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

DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

You are invited to a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Thursday nights via Zoom. Pastor will be leading the study, which utilizes the "The Jewish Annotated New Testament" as one of our resources to delve deep into Jesus' times and to better understand this Gospel written to a Jewish-Christian audience.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82089110140>
 Meeting ID: 820 8911 0140

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.

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, February 23, 9:00 AM

Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 am in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Constitution Approval Vote.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND
VOTE TO APPROVE THE NEW CONSTITUTION
Sunday, February 23, 10:00 AM**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place **this Sunday, February 23**, following the 9:00 am single worship service. Please plan to attend so that there is a quorum to be able to conduct the business of the Church.

The meeting will also include the first of two opportunities for the congregation to vote to approve the new Constitution. A second opportunity for the congregation to vote will take place on Sunday, March 23, at 10:00 am, after the single worship service at 9:00 am.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please plan to attend via zoom.

While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 23, 2025 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 858 5726 3471 - <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85857263471>

2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS – DUE BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

For those who have not yet done so, please return your 2025 Stewardship Commitment card no later than **this Sunday, February 23**. The cards will be blessed in worship on Sunday, March 2.

If you need a commitment card, please contact the church office by phone at 215-355-2529 or by email at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATE FOR THE CONGREGATION – ACTION REQUIRED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 2

The church office is updating the directory for the Congregation and we need your help! Copies of the current directory are available in the narthex and were emailed to the congregation. Please review your information and either **CONFIRM** or **UPDATE** your information no later than Sunday, March 2. Confirmation or update of contact information can be changed directly on the hard copy in the narthex, emailed to the church office at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com or called into the office at 215-355-2529. Thank you for your help in keeping our directory up-to-date!

DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION – WARMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry 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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

NEW EVENT: EASTER EGG HUNT – SEEKING A LEADER AND HELPERS!

Advent is looking to host an Easter Egg Hunt but is in need of someone to lead the planning and execution of the event as well as individuals to assist. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Pastor Matt via the church office at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:30 a.m. 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!

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!

SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$9,700 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

LEIDY MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY'S MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8 at Advent

Advent Members interested in Microscopy, rocks and minerals are welcome to stop into the narthex and see what the Leidy Society is about! Talk to Christel Hoffmann if you have any questions.

Daily Visitor Fees: \$5.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday

Saturday admission includes a silent auction, giveaways, & lunch

Saturday lectures:

- "Diving into Olivine," by Chris Duerr
- "The Fascinating World of Diatoms," by Bill Dailey

Vendors:

For both days: 6-foot table fee \$40.00, 1/2 table fee \$25.00

For more info: donmcalarnen@outlook.com Phone: 610- 584-1364

Make checks payable to: The Leidy Microscopical Society

Mail to: Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road, East Norriton, PA 19403

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For January 2025		
	Rec'vd for Jan 2025	Budget for Jan 2025
General Fund	\$11,190.06	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,451	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$30	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$655	
Web Upgrade	\$0	
Total	\$13,326.06	\$20,640.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CARING FOR FRIENDS MEAL ASSEMBLY

March 2, after late service at 10:35 AM



We invite you to meet in fellowship hall to assemble dinners for Caring for Friends. If we have a good number of volunteers to scoop servings of food and put lids on the trays, we can complete a lot in a short amount of time.

Frozen meals will then be delivered to Caring for Friends for distribution. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin or Christine Welsh. We hope to see you there!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, March 5, 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Services for Ash Wednesday will be held at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm and will be available in-person or online via Zoom and Facebook. Links will be sent via email the week prior.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 8, 8:30 AM



This will be our annual St. Patrick's breakfast. There were complaints from the neighbors about the noise from last year's breakfast so we will try to be more considerate this year. The Board of Directors for Men's Breakfast has not decided on the cuisine. Several options appropriate to St. Patrick day would include something green. Early morning breakfast just doesn't seem to work for green pancakes, green eggs, green coffee etc. Guess it will just have to be a surprise that morning.

Breakfast will be Saturday March 8, at serving at 8:30 or close to it. Coffee is ready from 7:30.

THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND SERVICES

Thursdays, March 13 through April 10

6:00 PM: Soup Supper

7:00 PM: Lenten Service: "Baptismal Call"



During the season of Lent, gather at Advent on Thursday evenings. Soup supper and fellowship will be followed by a Lenten worship service focused on Baptismal Call.

- For the Soup Supper, please sign up in the narthex to bring soup, bread or drinks.
- The Lenten service will also be available via Zoom and Facebook. The link for the service will be sent via email the week prior to the first Soup Supper.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00 am Single Worship Service - Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting
and 1st Vote on Approval of new Constitutional

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 5:30 pm Praise Team practice until 6:15 pm
- 6:15 pm Vocal Choir practice until 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt - Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 2 – TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

- 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: Open
- 10:35 am Caring for Friends Meal Assembly
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry

LENTEN & HOLY WEEK DATES

Ash Wednesday – March 5

Passion Sunday – April 13

Maundy Thursday – April 17

Good Friday – April 18

Easter Sunday – April 20