

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 30, 2025

9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

A reading from **Romans 6:3-5**: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Journey to the Cross"

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| 1 Man of sorrows how You suffered
You were broken for me
Your appearance so disfigured
By Your wounds I am healed | 2 From the cruel cross You were taken
In a tomb You were laid
King of heaven now You've risen
You have conquered the grave |
|---|--|

I could never know the price You paid
I could never understand Your pain

I could never know the price You paid
I could never understand Your pain

Chorus

Chorus

As I journey to the cross
I think of all that You have done
Jesus You who knew no sin
Came to die for me
Taking on a sinner's death
Humble King of righteousness
Jesus You who knew no sin
Came to die for me
You came to die for me

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

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for

you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LBW 499

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| <p>1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.</p> <p>2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.</p> | <p>Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.</p> <p>3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.</p> |
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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, in your mercy.

*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...

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Distribution

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

Prayer After Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our 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 Hymn: "Still the Cross"

1 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

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

Chorus

When it all comes crashing down
The cross still stands alone
And on this our (my) faith is built
And our (my) courage is made strong
When the world falls apart
And you fear for your heart
There's a tower of peace

2 Sometimes it seems
That I have been forgotten
I don't know how
I will make it on my own
But the One who said
I will never be forsaken
He still hears my prayer
And I will never be alone

Chorus

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
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 Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Lay Reader	Gail Oines
Communion Assistant	Megan Ward
Fellowship Time	The Dettra Family

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 23 – single worship service **TOTAL: 45**
9:00 AM: 38+2=40 Sunday School: 5

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 – WILL RESUME AFTER EASTER SUNDAY

Thursday Night Bible Study will resume after Easter on Thursday, April 24. Consider coming to the Soup Supper and Lenten Service on Baptismal Call on Thursdays, starting on March 13.

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.

EASTER LILIES – SIGN UP BY APRIL 13

The sign-up sheet to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter Sunday is on the table in the narthex until April 13. Cost is \$15 per plant. You can also contact the office with your request at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

Please place payment in the offering plate or mail payment to the church at 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954. Checks can be made out to **Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church**. Please write **Easter Lilies** in the memo line of the check.

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

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 would like 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 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.

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 \$9,900 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).

PING PONG – TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM

All are welcome to come and enjoy Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try.



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!

DIRECTORY UPDATE FOR THE CONGREGATION

Thank you to all who provided an update to or confirmation of their contact information for Advent's Directory. If you did not have a chance to update or confirm your information, please email or call the church office at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com or 215-355-2529. Thank you for your help in keeping our directory up-to-date!

CHURCH SECURITY

Please be mindful that all the doors of the church are locked and latched when you are leaving. The external doors do not always automatically latch when they swing shut.

- When leaving the church building, please **tug the door behind you** to check that it has latched.
- **If you possess a church key** and are the last key bearer to leave the church (i.e. Non-key bearing people may still be in the building), please check and lock the external doors upon leaving.

Thank you for your attentiveness.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For February 2025		
	Rec'vd for Feb 2025	Budget for Feb 2025
General Fund	\$10,494.64	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,324	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$85	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$976	
Web Upgrade	\$200	
Total	\$13,079.64	\$20,640.00
	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-2/28/25	Budget YTD 1/1-2/28/25
General Fund	\$21,684.70	\$37,218.00
Mortgage	\$2,775.00	\$3,796.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$115.00	\$266.00
Other Benevolence	\$1,631.00	
Web Upgrade	\$200.00	
Total	\$26,405.70	\$41,280.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



SPIRITUAL GIFTABILITIES INVENTORY – THIS SUNDAY!

Sunday, March 30, 10:45 AM

For those who were not able to complete the Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory, you have an opportunity following the 9:30 AM service on March 30, to convene with Pastor Matt, who will guide you through the process. This inventory is meant to assist congregants in identifying and understanding their personal spiritual gifts and to identify the spiritual gifts of the congregation.



THURSDAY EVENING SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

Thursdays, March 13 through April 10

7:00 PM: Lenten Service: “Baptismal Call”

Due to low in-person attendance, the Soup Supper is canceled for the remaining Thursdays in Lent. The Lenten Service, focused on Baptismal Call, will be switched to online only at 7:00 PM. Please consider logging on via Zoom or Facebook.

Zoom (<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86444303196>)

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa>)



EASTER EGG HUNT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 13, AT 11:00 AM

Advent is hosting a Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13 at 11:00 AM. Bring your little ones for an exciting day of hunting for colorful eggs, meeting friends, and celebrating the joy of Easter!

To ensure we have enough eggs and goodies, please **register in advance** by filling out the online registration form at:

<https://tinyurl.com/adventegg hunt25> (or scan the QR code)

or contacting the church office at 215-355-2529 or

adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.



We can't wait to see you there as we celebrate Easter with fun, fellowship, and joy!

Questions? Contact Christine Welsh at 267-566-6299.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday: Sunday, April 13, 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service: Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 20, 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 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: The Dettra Family
- 10:45 am Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory with Pastor Matt
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, MARCH 31

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- 6:00 pm Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm Mid-week Lenten Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 – Fifth Sunday of Lent Farewell and Godspeed to Gail and Doug Oines

- 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
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry