

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 6, 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: “The Table of Grace”

1 Hear the good news
You've been invited
No matter what others may say
Your darkest sins
Will be forgiven
And you will always have a place

Chorus

At the table of grace
The cup's never empty
The plate's always full
And it's never too late
To come and be filled
With love never ending
You're always welcome
At the table of grace

2 So come you weak
And heavy hearted
Don't try to hide
Your earthly scars
In His Eyes
We all are equal
Don't be afraid
Come as you are **Chorus**

3 So let the first
Become the last
Let the poor
Put kings to shame
Their willing hearts
Will be their treasure
By the power of Jesus' name **Chorus**

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

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

- ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
- ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
- ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
- ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
- ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
- ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 126

- ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
- ² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**
- ³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
- ⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
- ⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

1 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

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

3 The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures **Chorus**

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: 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://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.**

Farewell and Godspeed

Gail and Doug, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus 23:20: "The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Gail and Doug
and for the time we have shared with them.

As they have been a blessing to us,
So now send them forth to be a blessing to others;
through 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 Hymn: "Friends"

1 Packing up the dreams God planted
In the fertile soil of you
Can't believe the hopes He's granted
Means a chapter in your life is through

Pre-Chorus

But we'll keep you close as always
It won't even seem you've gone
'Cause our hearts in big and small ways
Will keep the love that keeps us strong

Chorus

And friends are friends forever
If the Lord's the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
'Cause the welcome will not end
Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends

2 With the faith and love God's given
Springing from the hope we know
We will pray the joy you'll live in
Is the strength that now you show

Pre-Chorus

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	Open

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 30 TOTAL: 42
8:00 AM: 11+3=14 9:30 AM: 26 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.

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.

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 via phone or email with your request at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

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!*

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

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.

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!

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.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

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
	Rec'vd 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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 12:00 PM

The Advent Womens Circle's **next meeting will be held at Advent on Tuesday, March 11, at 12:00 p.m.** For more information or questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267-847-5098.



MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 8:30 AM

Unfortunately, Men's Breakfast this month falls too far from April Fool's Day, so we will not be able to use any of our favorite trick menus for the occasion. That might be a good thing. We will meet on **Saturday, April 12 at 8:30 AM.** Coffee always ready by 7:30 PM.



THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES

Thursday, April 10, 7:00 PM: Lenten Service: "Baptismal Call"

During the season of Lent, a Lenten worship service, focused on Baptismal Call, will be held online on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. This week will be the final Thursday evening Lenten Service. Soup Supper has been canceled due to low in-person attendance.

Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86444303196>)

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



EASTER EGG HUNT NEXT 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/adventegghunt25> (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

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, 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

MONDAY, APRIL 7

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting
6:30 PM Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

7:00 PM Mid-week Lenten Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 – Passion/Palm Sunday

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
11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt