



Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are a guest with us, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to our priest as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact our priest (Tim Johnson) by calling the church office at (610) 444-4624 or by email at rector@adventks.org. **Again, welcome!**

Elementary Sunday School begins at 9:45 am, in the Children's Chapel.

Jr/Sr High Sunday School begins at 9:45 am, in the St. Jude Room.

Adult Formation – Our current six-week series on the “Life of Jesus” begins at 9:45 am, in the St. Nicholas Room.

Midweek Communion – 8 am, Tuesday, Feb. 24th, in the Chapel – Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026, 11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

(Our liturgy is taken from the Book of Common Prayer and Enriching our Worship, an authorized supplement to the Prayer Book. During Lent, our service begins with confession and absolution.)

PRELUDE

Now Rest Beneath Life's Shadows

Peeters

OPENING HYMN

Forty Days and Forty Nights
#150 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever. Amen**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Celebrant Kneeling, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

Celebrant & People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant & People

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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.

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

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

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

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

10 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."

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

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

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand for the sequence hymn and the reading of the Gospel.)

SEQUENCE HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*
#448, v. 1-3 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*
#448, v. 5 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

HOMILY

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with
the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our
salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy
Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made
man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the
Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the
Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We
look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Please kneel, remain standing, or be seated for the prayers and confession.)
Response to each petition: **Merciful Lord, hear us.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies Sake*
Advent Choir

Farrant

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (*Please stand as you are able.*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

(Eucharistic Prayer A from The Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord, God of power and might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(You may remain standing, kneel, or be seated for the remainder of the prayer.)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants*
#782 in Wonder Love and Praise (green hymnal)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant & People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

SOLEMN LENTEN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
#448 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Passacaglia in D Minor (Part One)

Buxtehude

*This week's Sanctuary candle is sponsored by Monica Fragale
in memory of J R Thompson and Edie & Frank Fragale.*

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Lector: Ellen Struble

Sub Deacon: Barbara Thornton

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Chun

Ushers: Deb Peterson, Pete Peterson

Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers

Pastoral Emergencies – If you have a pastoral emergency requiring the assistance of a priest, please contact the church office during office hours. Outside of office hours, please contact the Rev. Tim Johnson directly at 484-730-1988.

WHAT IS THE SEASON OF LENT?

In the Church, we celebrate two main festival seasons – Christmas (12 days in length) and Easter (50 days in length). Each of these festival seasons is preceded by a season of preparation. For Christmas, the season of preparation is Advent. For Easter, the season of preparation is Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days (not counting Sundays) through the Saturday before Easter.

It is helpful to think of Lent as a season of “honesty” and “renewal.” As a season of honesty, we are encouraged to take an honest look at ourselves and to take stock of how well we are living into Jesus’s command to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We examine the sincerity of our relationships, the choices we make, and the true motives behind our decisions and actions. That honesty also includes accepting our own mortality, which we do in a profound way on the very first day of Lent – Ash Wednesday – when we receive ashes on our forehead and hear the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” In the midst this honest self-examination, Lent calls us to a renewal of our faith. Lent reminds us that God’s grace, which is made available to us in Jesus, brings us forgiveness of our sins and failures, strength to amend and reorient our lives, and the hope of eternal life. At Easter, we will celebrate God’s ultimate victory over sin, brokenness, and death through the resurrection of Jesus.

During Lent, we simplify our worship space and use the color purple, which is traditionally associated with penitence. We also refrain from using the word, “Alleluia” in worship since that word is an exclamation of holy joy. Our liturgy during Lent takes on a more penitential tone and usually begins with the act of confession and absolution. On a personal level, Lent is traditionally a time of recommitment to spiritual practices and disciplines that strengthen our relationship with God, such as charitable giving, prayer, fasting, and scripture study.

So, in the words of our prayer book, I invite to the observation of a holy Lent.

Rev. Tim

TWO SUGGESTED SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Suggestion One – Spend time praying the Sunday collects.

Our prayer book appoints a collect (a particular type of prayer) for the start of each Sunday service. These prayers are the first prayer we pray after the confession on the Sundays in Lent. The collects appointed for the Sundays in Lent are particularly powerful. Take the worship bulletin home with you each Sunday, and commit to praying that Sunday's collect each day during the upcoming week. Ask yourself these questions: 1) Are there particular words, phrases, or images in this Sunday's collect that really resonate with me? 2) Are there any parts of this prayer that seem challenging or uncomfortable? Why? 3) What changes is this prayer calling me to make in my life?

Suggestion Two – The Daily Examen

The Daily Examen is an ancient, prayerful way of reflecting on your day to identify where you have encountered God in your daily activities and to identify where you are in need of grace. It is most effective if the Daily Examen is prayed each evening at the close of your day, and it only takes a few moments. The steps to praying the Daily Examen are below.

1. Ask God for light.

I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.

2. Give thanks.

The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.

3. Review the day.

I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit, paying particular attention to the moments when I felt God's presence (joy, peace, contentment, closeness with others) or absence (anger, jealousy, fear, rejection).

4. Face your shortcomings.

I face up to what is wrong in my actions, reactions, and choices.

5. Look toward the day to come.

I ask where I will need God in the day to come.

(adapted from Loyola Press)

Lenten Potluck Suppers & Programming

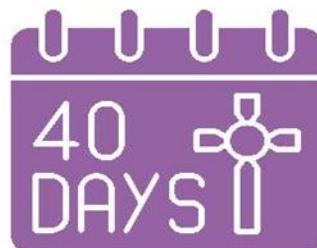
Wednesday Nights in March

6:00 pm - Potluck Supper

6:30 pm - Program

Program Topic:

Develop your
own "rule of life"
to grow spiritually
and deepen your faith.



ALL are welcome! Join us!