



**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](http://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](mailto: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 10:00 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 Holy Communion** at 8 am in the Chapel on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (St. Joseph), and Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> (Annunciation).

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 15, 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**

*Simple Gifts*

arr. Larkin

**OPENING HYMN**

*Now Let Us All in One Accord*  
#147 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

*Celebrant* Bless 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.*

**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.

**Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Lector*    The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## **THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

*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** *Be Not Afraid*  
#811, vs. 1-2, in the **Wonder, Love and Praise** (green hymnal)

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

## **GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent

me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who

worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN** *Be Not Afraid*  
#811, vs. 3, in the **Wonder, Love and Praise** (green 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**

*Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*  
Advent Parish Choir

Somers

**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,

<b>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,</b>	<b>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.</b>
---	--

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*I Am the Bread of Life*

#335 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue 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

*Amazing Grace*

#671 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

### DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Rebecca te Velde

### WORSHIP SUPPORT

*Lector:* Barbara Thornton      *Sub Deacon:* Pete Peterson

*Eucharistic Minister:* Deb 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

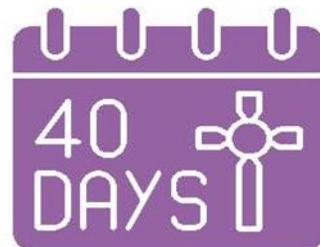
6:00 pm - Potluck Supper

6:30 pm - Program

Program Topic:

Develop your  
own "rule of life"

to grow spiritually  
and deepen your faith.



ALL are welcome! Join us!