The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 8, 2026

The Episcopal Church of the Advent
Kennett Square

Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are a guest with us this morning, 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 priests at (610) 444-4624 or rector@adventks.org (Rev. Tim) or emma@adventks.org (Rev. Emma). **Again, welcome!**

Our Parish Vision:
To build and nurture a community where all people may encounter God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ and learn to live as his followers in the world.

Our Parish Mission:
We seek to grow as disciples of Christ –
in community, prayer, learning, and service.

Our Parish Prayer:
Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you,
so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills,
that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you;
and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory
and the welfare of your people;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(from the Book of Common Prayer)

Elementary Sunday School for students age 4 to 11 continues today at 9:45 am.

Jr/Sr High Sunday School meets today at 9:45 am, in the St. Jude Room (Youth Room).

Adult Formation – Our six-week series on the Holy Spirit concludes today in the St. Nicholas Room at 9:45 am. Next week (Nov. 15) – on break. On Nov. 22, at 10 am, Rev. Tim will lead a workshop on observing the Season of Advent at home.

Readings for Next Week (November 15) – Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Midweek Eucharist – 8 am, each Wednesday, in the Chapel.

Our liturgy this morning is taken from Enriching Our Worship, an authorized supplement to the Prayer Book.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *God of our Fathers* Mack Wilberg

OPENING HYMN *God of Our Fathers*
#718 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORDand serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 God Our Help in Ages Past*
#680, v. 1-2 in in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

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

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN *O God Our Help in Ages Past*
#680, v. 4-5 in 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 or remain seated for the prayers.)*

The response is "… hear us, we pray."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant In silence, let us confess our sins before God.

Silence is observed.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem	*Song for the Unsung Hero* Matt Grieco, Trumpet	Jos. Martin

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *(Please stand as you are able.)*
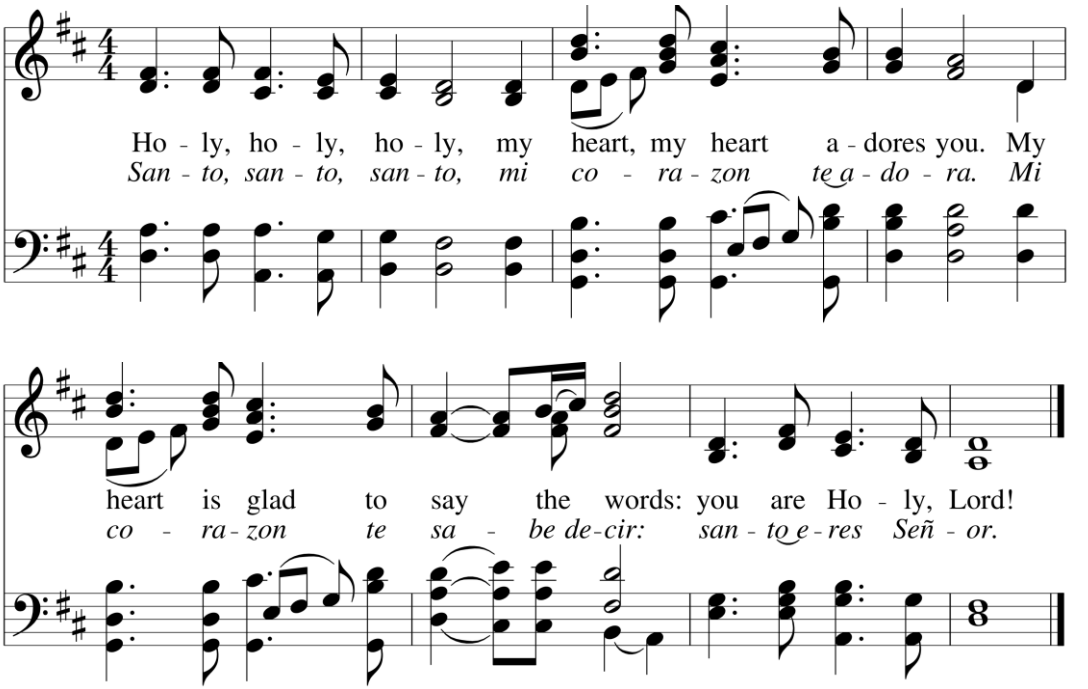
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *(vs. 3 of hymn #380)*

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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times in all places…

…we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sing 3 times in English.



(Please remain standing, kneel, or sit for the remainder of the prayer.)

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent…

…your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

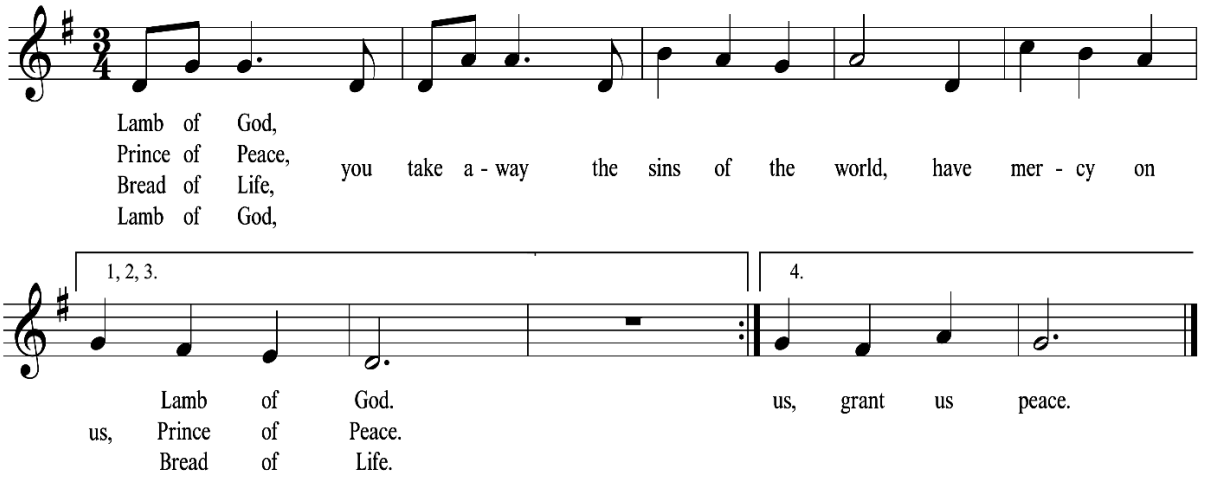
Celebrant and People:
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us…

…Blessed are you 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.



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COMMUNION ANTHEM *A Clare Benediction* John Rutter
Advent Chancel Choir conducted by Leon Spencer

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Celebrant Let us pray

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*
#719 in the Hymnal 1982 (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* John S. Dixon

*Scan this QR code if you would like **to make a gift** electronically.*

*Scan this QR code if you would like to **submit your 2027 pledge**.*

Our liturgy is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979, the Book of Occasional Services 2022, and Enriching Our Worship 1997, as used in the Episcopal Church in the United States. Reprinted/livestreamed with permission; all rights reserved. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-732383. All rights reserved.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored this week by
Phyllis Wenner in loving memory of John Wenner

The Altar Flowers are sponsored today by
the Rev. Timothy Johnson and Dr. Kevin O'Brien
in honor of the veterans in our parish.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Lector: Dick Sahford
Sub Deacon: Barbara Thornton
Eucharistic Minister: Diane Chun
Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers
Guest Organist: Bill Robinson
The Advent Altar Guild

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.