



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 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 19th (St. Joseph), and Wednesday, March 25th (Annunciation).

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 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

What Wondrous Love Is This

Rebecca te Velde

OPENING HYMN

Rock of Ages

#635 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.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

- Come, let us sing to the LORD; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
- 8 Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness, *

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.

9 They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."

11 So I swore in my wrath, *
"They shall not enter into my rest."

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*
#343, vs. 1-2, in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

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

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

SEQUENCE HYMN *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*
#343, vs. 3-4, 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

Here I Am, Lord
Advent Parish Choir

Schutte

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Come Thou Fount

#686 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 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
#690 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

The American Guild of Organists has designated March 8 as Woman Composer Sunday. Today's prelude and postlude were composed by Rebecca te Velde, organist, composer, and concert artist. Recently retired from First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, she served as coeditor of a nine-volume collection of new organ settings of hymns for the liturgical year published by Oxford University Press.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Lector: Barbara Thornton *Sub Deacon:* Barbara Thornton
Eucharistic Minister: Deb Peterson *Usher:* Pete Peterson
Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers *Guest Organist:* Bill Robinson

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

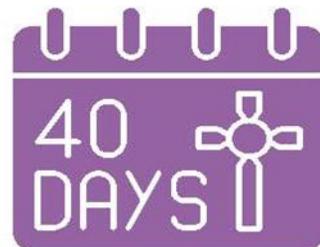
6:00 pm - Potluck Supper

6:30 pm - Program

Program Topic:

Develop your
own "rule of life"

to grow spiritually
and deepen your faith.



ALL are welcome! Join us!