



Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are visiting with us, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a visitor 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!**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 9, 2025, 10:30 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 *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness* Brahms

OPENING HYMN *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
#142 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*

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.

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

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went

down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
 abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 He shall say to the LORD,
 "You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
 my God in whom I put my trust."
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
 and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
 neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
 to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
 you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,
 therefore will I deliver him; *
 I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
 I am with him in trouble;
 I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:8b-13

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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 *In Christ there is no East or West*
#529 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your

God to the test." When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

HOMILY

The Reverend Timothy A. Johnson+

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 *Children of the Heavenly Father* arr. Cathy Moglebust
Advent Bell Choir

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 SOLO *Wayfaring Stranger* arr. John Jacob Niles
Emily Dryden, Mezzo

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 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*
#448 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *St. Anthony Chorale* Brahms

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

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Celebrant: The Reverend Timothy A. Johnson, Rector +

Lector: Dick Sanford

Sub Deacon: Dick Sanford

Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Thornton

Ushers: Judy Mason, Suzanne Pusey

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) until Palm Sunday.

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, our choices, 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 also 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 our lives, and the hope of eternal life. At Easter, we will celebrate God’s victory over sin 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)

