

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**11:00 a.m., Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**  
**Kennett Square, Pennsylvania**



**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](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) at (610) 444-4624 or [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 new Youth Room (St. Jude Room).

**Adult Formation** begins at 9:45 am. Dr. Troy Baker, the new Head of School of the Church Farm School, will provide an update on all that is happening at the school. Church Farm School is an all-boys Episcopal high school in Exton that provides a college preparatory education to promising students regardless of financial resources.

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

*Give Me Jesus*  
Advent Handbell Choir

Sondra Tucker

**OPENING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
#657 in **The Hymnal 1982** (the blue hymnal)

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GLORIA** #S-280 in the front of **The Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal) Powell

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant & People*

**Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

### **THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,  
and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*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**     *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*  
#780, v. 1-3 in **Wonder, Love & Praise** (green hymnal)

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

**GOSPEL: John 14: 1-14**

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN**     *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*  
#780, v. 5 in **Wonder, Love & 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 or be seated for the prayers of the people.)*

#### **THE PEACE**

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

#### **WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Eucharistic Prayer B from the Book of Common Prayer)*

#### **THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Advent Bell Choir



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

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

*(Please stand as you are able. Sung to hymn tune #400 in the Hymnal 1982 – the blue hymnal.)*

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

*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...  
...singing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus –S-130**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Schubert

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

*(You may remain standing, kneel, or sit for the remainder of the prayer.)*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love...  
...Therefore according to his command, O Father:

**We remember his death; we proclaim his resurrection;  
we await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...

...all honor and glory is your, 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>
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*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us!

*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

**COMMUNION HYMN** *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*  
#487 in **The Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

*Taste and See*

#154 in **Lift Every Voice and Sing** (red and black hymnal)

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant* Let us pray

**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**

**THE EASTER BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*  
#205 in **The Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** *Prelude and Fugue in A minor* J.S. Bach

*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 Altar Flowers are co-sponsored today by:  
the Family of Diane Marvin Grant, to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Diane & James S. Grant, Jr., Mary Edythe Thomas Marvin &  
Ethyl R. & J. Harvey Thomas, Theodore Marvin, and Mildred H. Marvin.

AND

Rev. Timothy Johnson, in loving memory of his brother Anthony D. Johnson

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored this week by  
Fran Wilson, in gratitude for all of God's blessings.

#### **WORSHIP SUPPORT**

*Lector:* Dennis Glasgow

*Sub Deacon:* Pete Peterson

*Eucharistic Minister:* Deb Peterson

*Director of Music:* Wilson G. Somers

*Handbell Director:* Leon Spencer

#### ***Suggested Spiritual Practice for the Easter Season: Read the Book of Acts***

Easter is more than just a day; it is an entire season. It is one of the two festival seasons of the church year, with the Christmas Season being the other. The Easter Season is celebrated for fifty days, beginning on Easter Sunday and concluding with Pentecost Sunday. During the Easter Season, in worship services where all the appointed Bible readings are typically read (Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel), the Old Testament reading is typically replaced with a reading from the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts (a.k.a. The Acts of the Apostles) was written by the same author as Luke's Gospel, and it picks up where Luke's Gospel ends. The Book of Acts tells the story of the earliest Christians immediately following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. I encourage you to spend some time in this Easter Season reading through the Book of Acts.

Happy Easter! Rev. Tim