Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church! Our hope today is that you will experience God's love in Word, Sacrament, and Song through the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. Everything you need for today's worship service is printed in this bulletin.



This community welcomes you – wherever you are on your spiritual journey. Are you a visitor? Come back again! Are you looking for a church home? All are invited to become part of the Advent community. If you join us in person or on our Facebook livestream; if you are here for an hour, a season, or a lifetime, you are welcome at Advent. The church may be cozy, but the table is long. There's a place for you here!

Need more information about who and what we are? Fill out a green contact/prayer card, add a comment on Facebook, email the church, or visit our website - www.adventlc.us - or make an appointment with Pastor Alex. We'd love to know how we can be in ministry together!

Advent is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



PRAYER CONCERNS We keep the following persons in prayer



Douglas M. Bennett (brother of Shelley Bennett)
David Church (friend of Advent)
Anthony Goveia (nephew of Ismay Lovell)
Ellie Holsopple (member)

Rev. Patricia Johnson (friend of the Stalls)

Jenny Jones (friend of the Falksens)

Kathryn "Kate" Juhl (member)

Pam Juhl (mother of Peter and Kate Juhl)

Rev. Elizabeth Platz (first woman in North America ordained

by a Lutheran church body)

Wayne Theye (friend of the Falksens)

Gail Wickre (mother of Sarah Wickre)

Becky Wilfinger (friend of Marilyn Falksen)

Edwina Wyatt-Knowles (friend of Nancy Jairrels)

GATHERING

PRELUDE The Gift of Love P. Tate

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water is poured into the font as a reminder of God's ever flowing stream of grace and forgiveness.

All may make the sign of the cross (signified with this \pm), the sign marked at baptism.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
- C Amen.

The leader addresses those who are gathered.

- P Look, here is water!
- C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

The leader gives thanks, using one of the following prayers or similar words.

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

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- At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

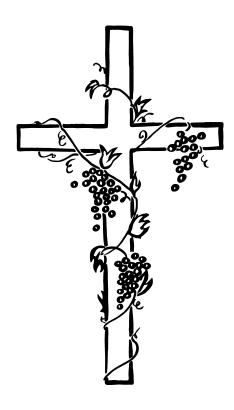
 By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

 We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P Look, here is water!
- C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table (Please see graphic next page)

ACS 977





- 1 Look who gath ers at Christ's ta ble! Hear the sto ries
- 2 Clouds of light sur round the ta ble; an cient fol low -
- peat ed Their sad sto - ries in thou - sand are re a Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare



bring. that they Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing; ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled ers dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing com - mon: in sur - prised host whose be by the hands wound - ed. are



some have songs they want sing. Oth - ers ask why they're to in their guilt, their doubt fear. with and Pe - ter tells of his de end in thanks and praise all for the host who they has in o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es and will bread

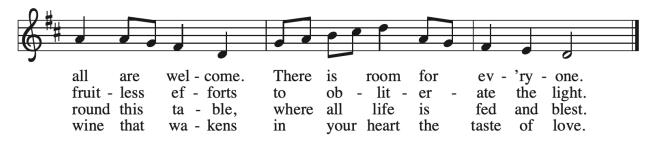


bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ vit - ed, in - sists they Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his ny - ing vit - ed north and south and east and west to con-verge a breaks it truth from a - bove!— and and man - na then pass - es



wel - come. There all are is room for ev - 'ry - one. fruit - less ef - forts ob lit the to _ er ate light. round this all life is fed ta - ble, where and blest. wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

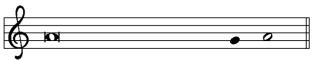
Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945



GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE Setting 4

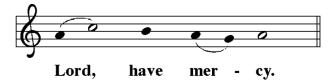


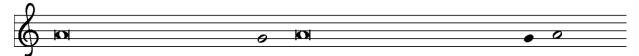
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



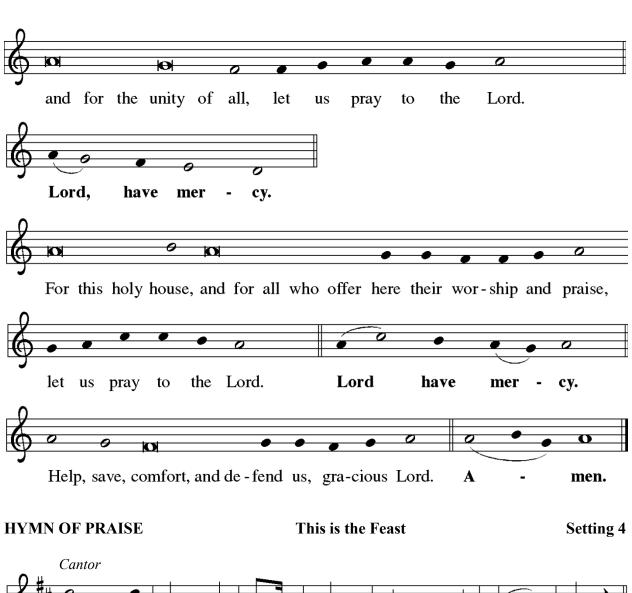


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



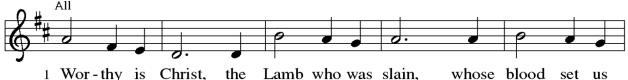


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,









1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. (Pause for a moment of silent prayer.) O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Reader A reading from Acts

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMS: Psalm 22:25-31

(Assisting minister reads light print; congregation reads bold.)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

Reader A reading from 1st John

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able..

THE GOSPEL HYMN

Setting 4





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- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Alex Stall, Jr.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are comfortable to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There is No East or West (Please see graphic next page)

ELW 650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis ci ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



of love through-out the whole wide earth. but one com - mu - ni - ty the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind. his ser - vice is liv - ing God are sure - ly kin All chil - dren of the souls are him through-out the whole wide earth. all Christ-ly one in

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

APOSTLES' CREED

Dating back as early as the 4th century CE, the creed is a confession of the faith of the assembly. It is historically ecumenical and structurally trinitarian. The Creed is a resurrection statement.

I believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the only begotten one;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, lived and loved among us,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

who descended into hell,

and on the third day rose from the dead;

Jesus, our Savior, ascended into heaven,

sits at the right hand of the loving God,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence. After each petition please respond: "Hear our prayer."

- A God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
- C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

Offering the peace of Christ is far more than a handshake and a greeting to someone you haven't seen since last Sunday. It is the embodiment of conflicts forgiven, wars ended, even death destroyed. Jesus's resurrection offers true peace.

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL

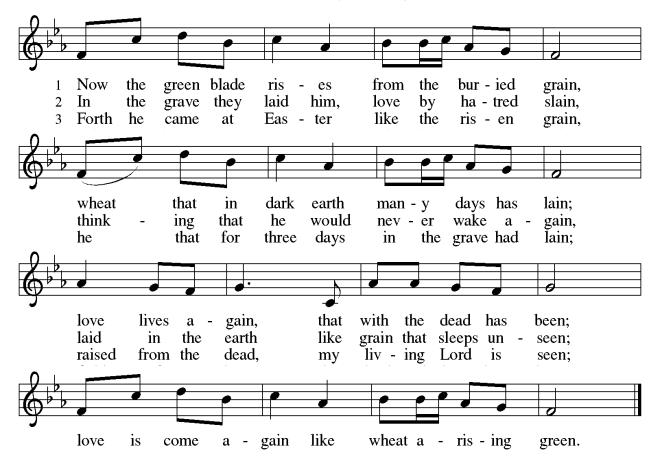
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING The Gift of Love H. Hopson

The Offering represents a shift in our worship time. We change from a time of hearing and learning God's Word, to a time of action. We share of our time and resources — and our very selves. We recognize God's grace in our lives and respond with our offerings. All are invited to respond to God with joyful hearts by giving regularly or tithing (giving proportionally) by placing your gifts in the collection plate, or by making electronic donations using our website at www.adventlc.us (look for the "Giving" option on the home page). We also use Simply Giving for regular, automatic electronic donations. Please reach out to the church office for the necessary forms! In whatever way you support Advent, know that we are thankful for your faithfulness and trust in God.

Please stand as you are able.

(Verses 1-3)



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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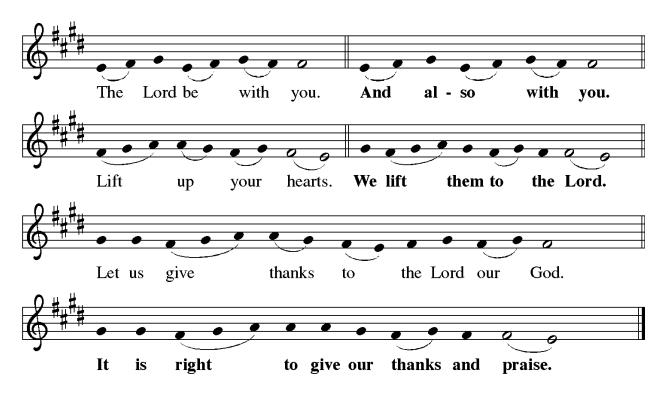


OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

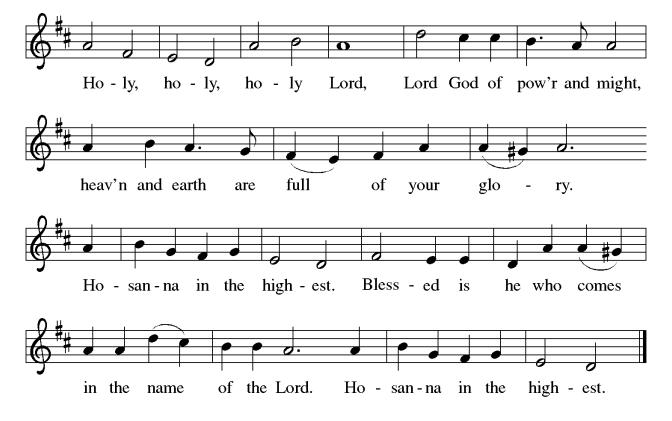
- A Let us pray. Risen One,
- C you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here
 be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
 Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P O God most mighty,
 - O God most merciful,
 - O God our rock and our salvation,

hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P Remembering Jesus's death, we cry out Amen.
- C Amen.
- P Celebrating Jesus's resurrection, we shout Amen.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting Jesus's presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.
- C Amen.
- P O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
 - O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
 - O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
 - O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.
 - O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 - O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

 Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.
- C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

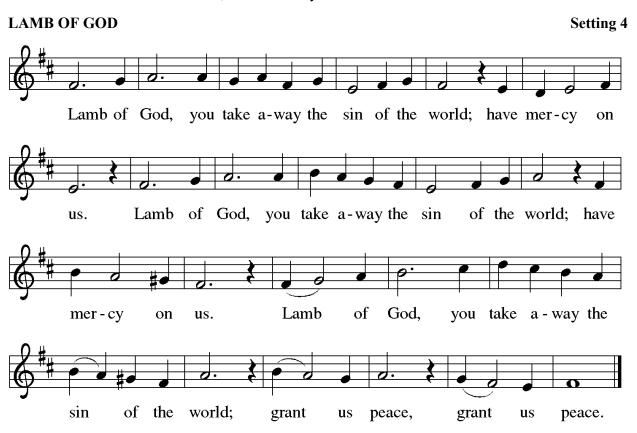
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Supper here at Advent. Wine and white grape juice are available by individual cup. Gluten-free communion hosts are also available upon request. If you do not commune, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. We ask that you please maintain a safe distance as we commune. Hand sanitizer is available at the usher's stand.

P Come now to the Lord's Table, for all is ready!



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DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Spirit, Open My Heart ACS 1043 (Please see graphic next page)





Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.



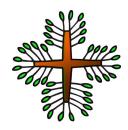
Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us Pray. Shepherding God,
- C you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.



God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

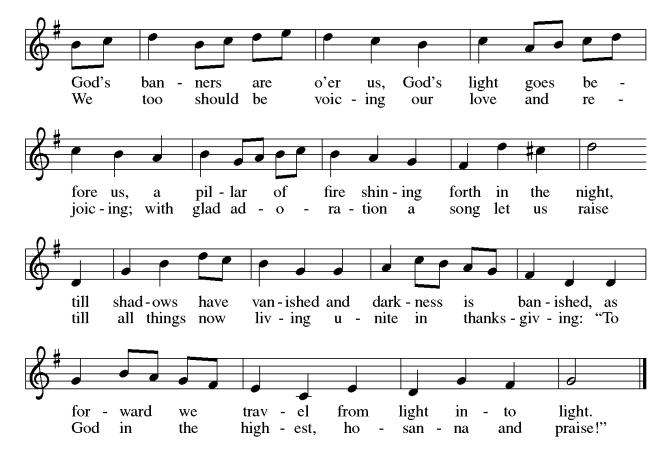
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

 + bless you now and always.
- C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN **Let All Things Now Living ELW 881** all things now liv - ing song of thanks - giv - ing Let a to stars in God rules all the forc - es: the their cours-es and um - phant - ly God the tri raise, cre tor a be - dient - ly bit in its shine: sun or o fash-ioned who pro - tect - ed stayed us, and made us, and foun - tains, the the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and still guides the end of days. us to our on deeps of the claim God di vine. pro cean



Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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DISMISSAL

- This service has ended. Our service continues!
- Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Let All Things Now Living D. Wood



We give thanks for those assisting with worship today . . .

The Rev. Alex P. Stall, Jr.
Cheryl Beversdorf
Lydia Suarez
Susan Toth
Dennis Siebert
Shelley Stall
Rhonda Rose
Shane Gainer
Nancy Jairrels
David Falksen

Announcements

Exploring Faith. We conclude our study of the Ten Commandments with "coveting." That's not a word much used today. What does it really mean and why is it wrong? We live in a culture that constantly encourages us to want more, to be more. Is that wrong? Then, as a summary and review, we'll look at Luther's conclusion to his discussion of the Ten Commandments in the Large Catechism. Join the discussion in the Fellowship Hall following the coffee hour.

Highlights from the April Council meeting:

- Dinner Church, Holy Week Services and the Egg Hunt were very successful events!
- Pastor is attending the Bishop's Convocation this week but will return for Sunday.
- March income and expenses were typical. The PayPal giving option (QR code) is seeing increased usage.
- The outdoor outlets are functional again. Cloth towels are available in the kitchen for spills; please minimize use of paper towels. Cleaning supplies are in the cabinet between the restrooms and vacuum cleaners are in the closet across from the restrooms. Help yourself! Tell Rick if there is a maintenance issue that needs attention or scan the QR code in the kitchen.
- B Rushing Landscape completed the spring cleanup. One of the labyrinth benches will be repainted and dedicated by friends in memory of a neighbor for whom the labyrinth was a source of comfort during her illness.
- Council reviewed the draft budget for July 2024 Jun 2025.
- Esther Day was appointed Finance Team Leader, effective May 1, 2024.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

At its April meeting, the Council voted to recommend the following amendment to Advent's Bylaws. This proposed amendment will be on the agenda for the congregational meeting on June 9.

Section II. Officers

Item 4. The congregation shall elect the president and vice-president at its annual meeting, and they shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Any member of this congregation who has been a member of the congregation council for at least one year is eligible to serve as president or vice-president. Their terms shall begin on July 1 or the beginning of the congregational year. The president and vice-president shall be eligible to serve no more than two four full terms consecutively.

Rationale for the change: Council members are eligible to serve two two-year terms consecutively – for a total of four consecutive years. The reason(s) for restricting the President and Vice President to two one-year terms is/are not obvious, other than to encourage more people to serve in the role or to force a change in leadership.



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road Arlington, VA 22202 www.adventlc.us

The Rev. Alexander P. Stall, Jr., Pastor Marianne Hawn, Council President Nancy Cox Jairrels, Office Administrator

Learn more about us at adventlc.us or facebook.com/adventarlington. The office is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 am - 3 pm. Contact the office at adventlc@hotmail.com or 703-521-7010. Pastor Alex may be reached directly at Pr.Alex.advent@icloud.com.



Give online with PayPal. Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera and use your PayPal account to donate. You may also donate via our website: www.adventlc.us/giving.