

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

Welcome to Advent. Glad you're here. Responses from the assembly are in **bold**. Notes for the assembly are in *italics*. A ^ marks when the assembly is invited to stand.



PRELUDE "WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE"
ELW #774

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ^

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the resurrection of Jesus, God has freed us from the power of sin and death. May the Spirit lead you to believe that God has had mercy upon you, pardoned you from all your sins, confirmed you in all goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN ^ “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”
ELW #705

GREETING ^

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

HYMN OF PRAISE ^ “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”
ELW #839

PRAYER OF THE DAY ^

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. **Amen.**

SERMON ON THE STEPS

*Children and caregivers are invited to come to the front steps.
The Small Catechism may be found on p. 1160 on the ELW.*

READING ACTS 8:26-40

An 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are

reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY “HERE I AM, LORD”

ELW #574

READING 1 JOHN 4:7-21

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

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ^

"LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD"

ELW #726

GOSPEL ^ JOHN 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN ^ “O DAY OF PEACE”

ELW #711

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, was

incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 INTERCESSION

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.

After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

PEACE ^

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

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Thank you for your generosity. New to Advent? Consider placing a communion card in the offering.

OFFERING SONG ^



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER ^

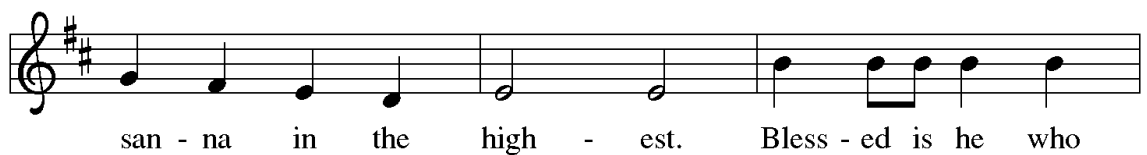
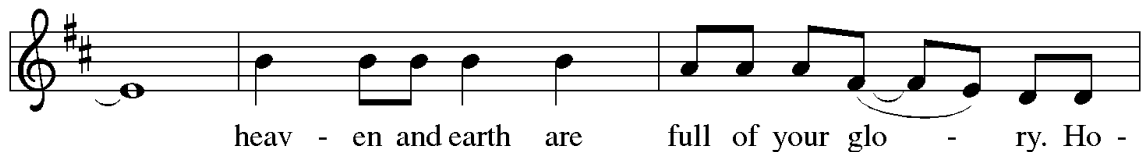
Lord Jesus, As you fed the five thousand from the gifts of a young child, we pray that you will use our gifts, our lives, and our praise to feed this hungry world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE ^



It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ^





comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION ^

...we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER ^

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE MEAL

The assembly is invited to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Please place your cup in the bowl as you return to your pew. There are no outcasts, strangers, or unwelcome guests at our Lord's table.



HYMN “BORNING CRY”

ELW #732

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER ^

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our death: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Please join us for refreshments. Make a left as you exit the sanctuary.

BLESSING ^

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.
Amen.

HYMN ^ “BLESSED ASSURANCE”

ELW #638

DISMISSAL ^

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

777 WYCKOFF AVENUE | WYCKOFF, NJ 07481
(201) 891-1031 | ADVENTLUTHERANWYCKOFF.ORG

A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

MISSION

To grow in faith through worship, learning, and serving together.

VISION

To inspire, strengthen, and give hope through faith and love.

WELCOME

We believe God's love is expansive and unconditional. Through Christ, God calls us to love one another as God loves us. We celebrate people of every age, culture, difference of ability, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender identity, race, and sexual orientation. We recognize the worth, dignity, and gifts of everyone as a child of God.



From Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright ©2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SAS022188.

*Hymns reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A-734088 and
CCLI license #3015591, streaming license #20407859.*