

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, September 7, 2025 Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventharleysville.org

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOME STATEMENT

Advent Lutheran Church of Goschenhoppen, a welcoming community of God, believes ALL people are made in God's image and boundless love and ALL are valued equally within our congregation. We are empowered by God through faith to nurture and celebrate the vast diversity among individuals – single, married, partnered, divorced – embrace their uniqueness in all aspects of life including race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds and age. We at Advent, affirm and welcome you to share life with us and participate in God's ministry statement.

WELCOME FRIENDS AND GUESTS If you are a guest, we ask that you please sign our visitor register located on the table in the Narthex, and help yourself to one of the Welcome Bags. Please come back and worship with us.

LITURGY. Hymns can be found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book - our red hymnal in the pew rack, or placed under the chairs.

* indicates, please stand, as you are able.

MASKS - Masks are optional. Love your neighbor.



WE LOVE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP!

- Worship activities are located in the narthex cubbies.
- A staffed nursery is available for infants through age 6. The nursery is the last door on the right.
- Children's Church (kindergarten-5th) grade begins after the children's sermon. Children will return to worship during the passing of the peace.

FOR EVERYONE: Join us for fellowship following worship! All are welcome.

** Members, please remember to check your mailboxes today **



Advent Lutheran Church

470 Landis Road Harleysville, PA 19438 215-256-9941

www.adventharleysville.org

Prelude

Prepare your hearts for worship in a quiet time and space during the prelude.

GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but too often we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life. Amen

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Listen, God is Calling

Hymn #513

*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.**

*Hymn of Praise







*Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray...

C: Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [|] of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats [|] of the scornful!
 - ² Their delight is in the law | of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither;

everything they ^I do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so | with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R

First Lesson: Philemon 1-21[22-25]

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

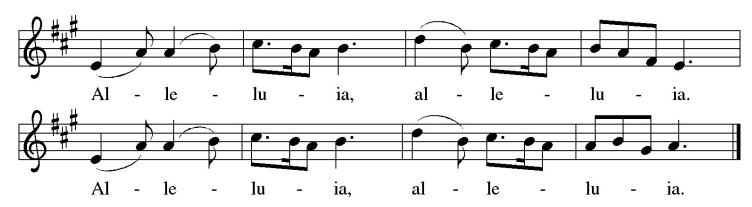
¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

- ²² One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.
- ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.
- ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

Children's Sermon

Children ages kindergarten-5th grade are dismissed for Children's Church

Sermon Pastor Mark

*Hymn of the Day To Be Your Presence Hymn #546

*Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and He will come 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.

*The Prayers

*The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

*Offertory Prayer

A: Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world.

C: Amen.

*Communion Liturgy

P: Those of you worshiping with us online are invited to share communion with us. I invite you to have your bread and your wine or grape juice before you as we gather to receive communion. What we share is not a private ceremony, but an act of worship within this community gathered by a God who transcends time and space. It is "for you" – Christ promises to be there for you. Trust that. And this sacrament is also for all people; we celebrate in the assembly. We are one community in worship.

*Dialog

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

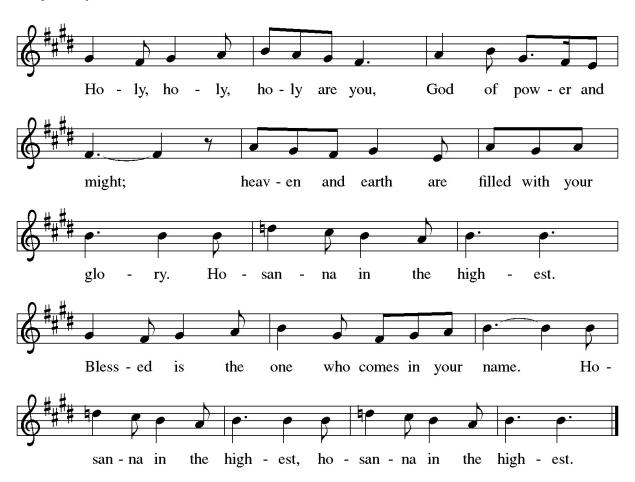
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give you thanks and praise.

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

*Holy, Holy, Holy



*Thanksgiving at the Table

*Lord's Prayer

P: Joining with people around the world, we are bold to pray using the words our Savior 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.

P: The commonwealth of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. Come, not because you are perfect, but because you are forgiven.

*Lamb of God



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; @ 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion

Those worshiping in-person are invited to come forward as the ushers direct you. You may receive bread and dip it into the wine or grape juice; or you may pick up one of the sealed wafer/grape juice packets or a sealed gluten free wafer and hear the words of promise before returning to your seat to open it.

Those worshiping online are invited to use your own bread and wine or grape juice at this time, saying to each other, or to yourself, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you." For all of us, Christ promises to be present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice.

Children who have not yet received their first communion may come forward (in person) for a blessing, or someone in the room (worshiping online) may pause to provide that blessing, saying "Remember, God loves you" or "You are a beloved child of God."

Communion Hymn: Take My Life, That I May Be Hymn# 583

Post Communion Blessing

P: Now may the body and blood of our savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace. **C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

P: God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service Hymn# 810

*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!

C: Saved by God's Grace, Renewed through Word and Sacrament, We are Sent as Disciples to Share the Gospel of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Diana McClure, Treasurer, Finance Team
Eileen Solomon, Sec., Worship & Music
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Judi Greene, Fellowship
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