

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21st, 2024 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

~WELCOME~

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany (by Fran Pratt)

P: Resurrected Christ, You came to us after your journey
through death ...

C: **Speaking peace, eating and drinking, embodied and whole.**

P: In your body, You wear the full arc of humanity ...

C: **It's struggle and hope; it's birth and death; it's pain and redemption.**

P: Yet, You also carry the full spectrum of divinity ...

C: **Creation's origin; the seeds of the cosmos; love's great power.**

P: So we set out to echo, each day of our lives on this earth, Your peace, Your graceful mission, Your healing presence, Your hopeful faith, Your unstoppable love.

C: **Grant that we may reflect the fullness of your beauty in all we are, all we say, and all we do. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #369 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

P: Let us pray. ~ O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Acts 4: 5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,**

they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

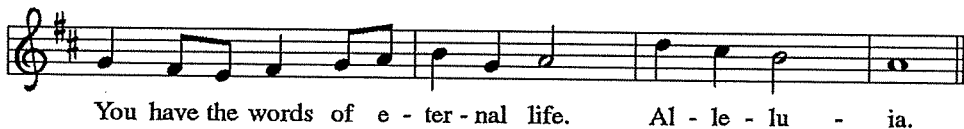
The Second Reading ~ 1 John 3: 16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation



*The Holy Gospel ~ John 10: 11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 10th chapter of St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #764

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

*The Apostles’ Creed (professed together)

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.

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

P: God of grace ... **C: Receive our prayer.**

Anthem

“My Shepherd”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be received by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice and will hand it to each communicant so that they may receive it between thumb and forefinger and place it in their own mouth. Children and youth not yet instructed in the meaning of the sacrament are welcome to receive a blessing and a cracker. †

*Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

P: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #536 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

The Dismissal

Go in peace; the risen Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God!

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*thank
you*

... to Maureen Wagner for serving as our lector

... Diane Ernst for serving as our usher & counter

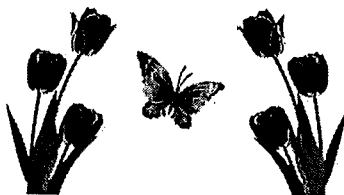
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Karen Bugger in memory of Bill Bugger and
loved ones

To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan,
Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Harvey and Janet
Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kero-
sitz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, and the
people of Israel and Ukraine.

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*





It is Friedens turn to volunteer at Betty Lou's in May. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. We will be collecting laundry detergent from now until then with a goal of 100 bottles.

They are also seeking volunteers for the food drive that will be occurring Saturday May 11th. There is a need for drivers and sorters of the food that comes in. The drive starts at 8am and will probably wrap up around 2pm. If anyone is interested in volunteering for even a portion of that time, speak to Kristin.