

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7th, 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 (written by Richard Bott)

L: Risen Christ, the world despised and rejected You, but You responded with grace, humility, and welcome.

C: The proud questioned your power and devised your death, yet You responded with peace, forgiveness, and new life.

L: Forgive us, Merciful One, for our arrogance, our selfishness, and our scheming. Turn us from the ways of the world and make us more like You.

C: Almighty Savior, You have turned our mourning into dancing. You have taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy, so that our whole being – body, mind, and soul – might sing praise to You and not be silent!

L: Sin and darkness have been vanquished. The brilliant light of hope has come.

C: We thank You, O Christ for the opportunity to come together to worship and celebrate the Good News of life, hope, and love. Alleluia ~ Christ has risen!

*Opening Hymn #361 “The Day of Resurrection!”

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

L: 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.**

L: Let us pray. ~ Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Acts 4: 32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

Psalm 133 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

The Second Reading ~ 1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Holy Gospel ~ John 20: 19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

L: The Holy Gospel according to the 20th chapter of St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Message

Sharon Bender & Terry Ravier

*Hymn #386 (vss. 1, 5-8) "O Sons and Daughters ... "

*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

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

***Benediction**

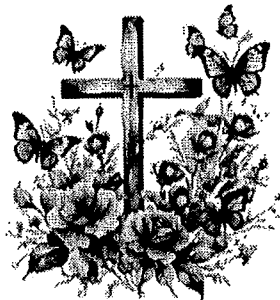
The God of all grace and hope +
bless you now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice & Sing!"**

The Dismissal

Go in peace; share the good news!

Thanks be to God!



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*thank
you*

... Diane Ernst for serving as our lector, usher, & counter
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech
... to Sharon Bender and Terry Ravier for leading the worship
service this morning and sharing God's Word

The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Diane Ernst in memory of Eleanor Ernst



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer.*

To be remembered in prayer ... Pastor Lisa Borrell, Leona Callahan, Levi Cressman, Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Harvey and Janet Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, and the people of Israel and Ukraine.

*Special thanks to all those who assisted
with our candy making project this year!
Your help was greatly appreciated. ♥*

+ Emergency Contact +

Pastor Lisa will be away on her continuing education trip in Turkey and Greece until April 18th. If you or another member of Friedens require pastoral assistance during this time, please call the Rev. Rich Teitsworth at 484-695-4554.

