

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5th, 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

P: Almighty God, who created this world we call home, who breathed life into all living beings, and whose hands placed the stars into the sky, help us to love with a heart of a parent yearning for the best for their child.

C: **Help us not just to talk about love, but to show love. To be that love to all people, to show hope to those in hopeless situations, to show forgiveness and to forgive those who cannot forgive themselves.**

P: Help us to be friends of the friendless, to reach out into this world and to be beacons of light, especially in those places that are in such need of your love and light. Help us to make a positive difference and to reach our potential in You.

C: **Help us, O Lord, to go and bear fruit, for you and for your Church, this day and always. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #836 “Joyful, Joyful. We Adore Thee”

*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 God, you give us your Son as the vine

P: 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.**

The First Reading ~ Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

Psalm 98 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.



⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy
before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

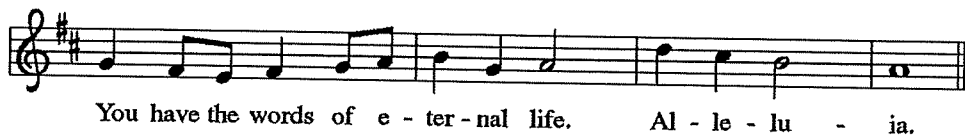
The Second Reading ~ 1 John 5: 1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus, the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation



*The Holy Gospel ~ John 15: 9-17

On the night of His arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to His disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all His commands, that they love one another.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 15th chapter of St. John.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #367

“Now All the Vault ... ”

*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: **Hear our prayer.**

Anthem

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

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, 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 resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **Amen.**

*Hymn #625

“Come We That Love the Lord”

The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

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The altar flowers have been sponsored by Carl
Konold in loving memory of wife, Barbara,
and Pauline Fogel.



*thank
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector
... Diane Ernst for serving as our usher & counter
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Janet Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, the people of Israel and Ukraine, and the family & friends of Harvey Heckman who recently entered into eternal life.

We are looking to collect **100** bottles of laundry detergent till the middle of May to benefit the clients of Betty Lou's Pantry. Please bring your donations to church and place in the narthex hallway. — Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted to help purchase the bottles of detergent. Thank you for being a blessing!



**Volunteers
needed**

It is Friedens' turn to help out at Betty Lou's Pantry during the month of May. If you are able to help in any capacity, please sign up on the sheet which is located on the table in the narthex. Many thanks in advance for your help! ♦☺♦☺♦



Our Christian sympathy is extended to Janet Heckman and her family upon the death of her beloved husband, Harvey, on April 24th. May our God grant loving strength during this difficult time.



TODAY is the deadline for ordering geranium plants to adorn our sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. The cost is \$3.50/ per plant. Please complete an order form (available in the narthex) and return it — along with payment — in an offering plate.



**** Mark your calendar ****

**Saturday, May 18th beginning at
4:30pm in the fellowship hall**

Come and enjoy a meal and a talk & tour
of Turkey & Greece by Pastor Lisa.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend!