

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

***Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024***

Pastor Rachel Scheible

***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
And Nursery School
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Secane, PA 19018
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

***GATHERING HYMN**

ELW 531

(Please stand as you are able)

1. The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing
The Feast Is Ready To Begin
The Gates Of Heaven Are Open Wide
And Jesus Welcomes You Inside

Refrain : Sing With Thankfulness

Songs Of Pure Delight

Come And Revel In Heaven's Love And Light

Take Your Place At The Table Of The King

The Feast Is Ready To Begin

The Feast Is Ready To Begin

2. Tables Are Laden With Good Things
Oh Taste The Peace And Joy He Brings
He'll Fill You Up With Love Divine
He'll Turn Your Water Into Wine
Refrain

3: The Hungry Heart He Satisfies
Offers The Poor His Paradise
Now Hear All Heav'n And Earth Applaud
The Amazing Goodness Of The Lord
Refrain

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God,
whose rising from the empty tomb
brings to us the promise of life eternal.

In the presence of the living God,

**C: we confess that we set our minds towards things of death,
and not on the life that is revealed in the Christ.**

In our fear and trembling

we quickly turn from you towards ourselves.

**Our fear leads us to doubt your promise, harm our neighbor, and
neglect your creation.**

**Resurrect us O' God, and bring about the new life in ourselves, in our
community, and our world.**

**Through the mercy of you beloved Son, heal us from our sin, and give
us the new breath of your Spirit.**

P: Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ + proclaims,
“Do not be afraid!”

Know that you are washed anew in his rising, and your sins are forgiven.

Be at peace, and live in the everlasting love of God.

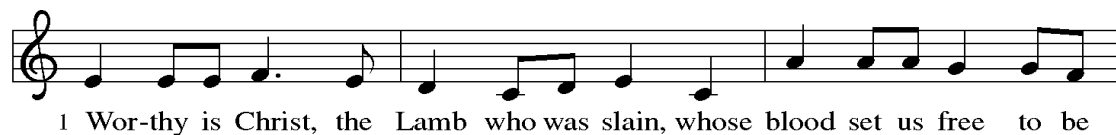
Amen!

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

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

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.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

*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.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the tenth chapter.

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.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Rev. Rachel Scheible

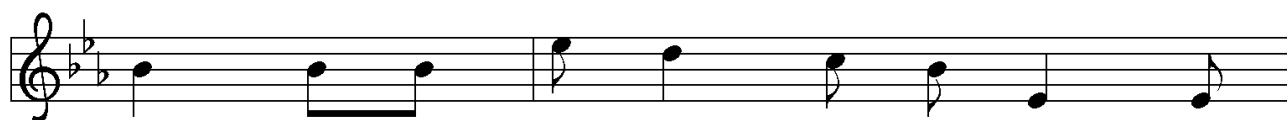
***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 764

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
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*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –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.**

+ RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD +**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(response after: God of Grace.)

C: hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us greet one another from our seats in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘Peace be with you’.

Please be seated as we finish singing

“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, siblings all are we
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God’s goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

*OFFERTORY

ELW 481

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord’s in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

In Holy Communion, the church shares the forgiving and renewing presence of the Lord Jesus in bread and wine. We invite all to receive this sacrament. Communion will be offered either by intinction or the prepackaged communion cups. You can pick up your prepackaged communion cup before entering the church and receive that from your seat at the appropriate time or come forward to receive the elements from pastor at the rail. Please discard your cups on the way out. Thank you.

(Please be seated)

***P:** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray:

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

+ **SENDING** +

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN*ELW 536****God Be with You Till We Meet Again**

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Mar's Income: \$22,260

Average Attendance: 50

Mar's Expense: \$17,760

Altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of Kim Christensen's birthday by her family.

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

Scheduled to serve this week 4/21 Scheduled to serve next week 4/28

Kathy D. – Assisting Minister

Greg C. – Leading Minister

Tony H. – Psalm Reader

The Colahans – Ushers

The Klines - Ushers

The Colahans – Counters

Downey/Deemer - Counters

Kathy D. – Altar

Kathy D. - Altar

*******WEEKLY CALENDAR*******

Mon, Apr 22

6:30pm – Girl Scouts (Mtg Rm)

Tue, Apr 23

Election Day (Hall)

Wed, Apr 24

6:30pm – Girl Scouts (Mtg Rm)

7:30pm – AA (Hall)

Thu, Apr 25

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

Sat, Apr 27

10:00am – AA (Hall) Breakfast

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sun, Apr 28

10:15am–Worship

11:30am – Sunday School

12:30pm – Song of Praise (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Plan to stay after church on the **2nd and 4th Sunday of each month**, for a God's take moment. We will meet at **11:30** for Bible discovery, and singing. All ages are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
4/28	Debbie Gruhler

*******PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*******

Healing:

Mike Longo

Rob Hahn

Lisa McDonough

Hugh Mullarkey

Jean Brown

Betty Lake

Anne Rainsford

Judy McGrane

Michael Long

Scott Smith

Bonnie Wood

Lois Saunders

Cliff Kellett

Trudy McDougall

Lynn McGrane

Jackie Bernduer White

Jackie Dewitt

Maureen Colahan

Ann Ferguson

Pete Kanz

Ed Shoup

Jean Cilurso

Phyllis Horton

Lou Vallies

Geralyn Gerakaris

Kathy Shoup

Jamal MacDonald

Rachel Yost

Eileen Maloney

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Apr, please call the office).

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Betty Oddi, Ruth Dell'Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Ruth Dukes, Janet Kline and Debra Ulmer.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

COFFEE HOUR– Today, April 21st after service sponsored by the Finance and Stewardship Committees.

CONFERENCE ASCENSION WORSHIP – Come fellowship and worship as our SEPA Conference gathers to celebrate and observe at St. Mark's Lutheran, Clifton Heights on **Thu, May 9th at 6:00**. Refreshments will be offered.



Tea Saturday, May 11th at 1:00pm in the Social Hall. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board outside office. Space is limited so make sure you sign-up.

MUSIC SUNDAY - "Let Pastor know your favorite hymn on the Music Sunday Sign-up Sheet. On **May 12th** we will celebrate the gift of music and sing your favorites. Invite a friend to attend. "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world (Martin Luther)"

CHALLENGE! Can you meet the challenge? – At our recent annual meeting we introduced our latest challenge to encourage giving. We challenged everyone to give at least an extra \$1 to the church every week for the rest of 2024. Our goal is to collect at least an extra \$3000.
CAN YOU MEET THE CHALLENGE?

BOTTLE CAPS - Do you drink bottled water? If so, please bring the caps to church to help the veterans at the V.A hospital get prosthetics. There is a box on the table in front of the office.
On behalf of those will benefit from your support, Thank you

Hello Holy Spirit!

Planning for the Strawberry Festival has started!

This year I am again organizing the Raffle Baskets. This is your invitation to sign up, email me (stahlre06@comcast.net), or just let me know which items you can donate to the baskets by **Sunday May 12th**.

Below is a list of the baskets that were organized in the past. Please let me know if you want to do one of those raffle baskets. If you do, I can give you a list of some content from past baskets.

1. Gardening Basket
2. Dog Basket
3. Beach Basket
4. Kids Basket
5. Spa Basket
6. BBQ Basket
7. Italian Basket
8. Ice Cream Basket
9. Movie Basket

If you want to create a basket with new theme, just let me know the details of it. There are also the church wide baskets shown below. There will be a sheet at church for people to sign-up for the items in each basket.

10. Shopper's Delight Basket	11. Food Galore Basket
Kohl's	Giant
Kohl's	Giant
Target	Acme
Target	Acme
Home Depot	Wawa
Home Depot	Wawa
	Starbucks
	Dunkin
	Outback
	Olive Garden

We are asking that the baskets are valued no less than \$50. Please have gift cards for at least \$25 in each basket. All basket content must be new. You can always look for me on Sunday if you have any questions. Thanks for your support!

God Bless,

Raymond Stahl (267-446-9937)



OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Pastor-Rachel Scheible

Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson

Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School

Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris

Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall

Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila

Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

Life Laid Down

How does faith in the risen Christ call one to live? What shape does one's life take?

The readings for this fourth Sunday of Easter are rich in their imagery, and at the center is the image of the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Five times in eight short verses Jesus mentions laying down his life for the sake of the sheep.

The First Letter of John picks up the same theme: “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?” (1 John 3:16-17). Laying down one's life for another might take many forms, but it at least means this: extending help, as much as you are able, when another is in need.

A friend tells the story of her grandfather, a faithful man who earned a modest income. Each year when tax time rolled around, he was audited. According to tax records he earned so little and gave away so much. The astounded auditors questioned him, wondering why he gave so much of his income to the church. Incredulous, he responded, “You can't outgive God.”

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, and joined to the risen life of Christ, the lives of the baptized are shaped by generosity and sacrifice. Giving one's life, resources, gifts, or whatever one holds most dear for the sake of another is both a witness to the love we have first been shown and an act of faith. Hearing Jesus' words in this Easter season reminds us that laying down one's life is not an act to be feared; rather, it is an act that defies death, as we trust that, washed in the waters of baptism, we already live in the resurrected life of Christ.