

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

***Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 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 663

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word



- 1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
- 2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
- 3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
- 4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to all.
 and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
 strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
 let the gath - ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
 Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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*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.

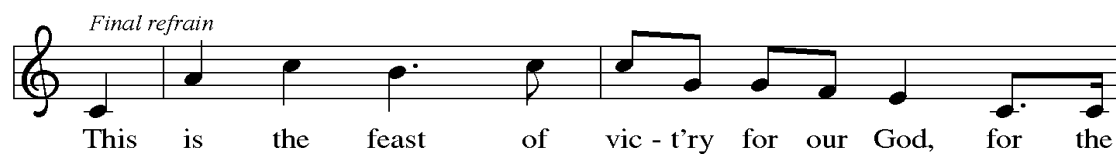
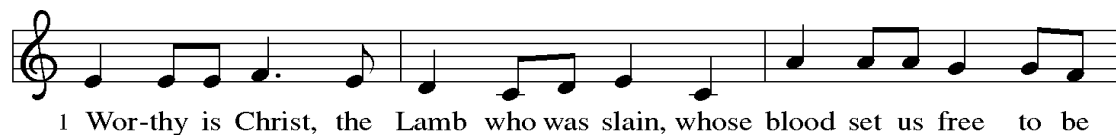
Amen!

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 God, you give us your Son as the vine 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 WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip

baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen

God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

HYMN Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

ELW 857 (2x)

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 392

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

(Cont'd)



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

* 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 885

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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.

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
 your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
 All that has life and breath praises your name.

For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

P: You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

P: Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

P: Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.

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.**

+ 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 774**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

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 memory of my Grandmother, Carrie E. Pyscher by Gary Pyscher.

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

Scheduled to serve this week 4/28 Scheduled to serve next week 5/5

Greg C. – Leader

Meghan G. – Assisting Minister

Tony H. – Psalm Reader

The Klines – Ushers

Gary/Raymond - Ushers

Downey/Deemer – Counters

Devine/Pyscher - Counters

Kathy D. –Sue T.

Donna D./Joan C. - Altar

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

Mon, Apr 29

6:30pm – Girl Scouts (Mtg Rm)

Wed, May 1

7:30pm – AA (Hall)

Thu, May 2

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

Sat, May 4

10:00am – AA (Hall)

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sun, May 5

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
5/5	Meghan Gordon

*******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

Baby Evelyn

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for May, 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

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 Time - **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

ALTAR FLOWERS - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office.

BULLETIN COVERS –There will be a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for **special occasions**. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.

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

Connected for Life

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus' impending death and the promise of his continued presence.

“Apart from me you can do nothing” may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He's been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.