

Pentecost 19 / World Communion

October 4th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034
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The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139
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WELCOME



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany for “World Communion” Sunday**

P: Today, on World Communion Sunday, we celebrate the Spirit of God that moves throughout God’s people across all of creation.

C: We are one in Christ.

P: Today we recall that, as members of one body, we can make a difference in a world of people in need of the love of Christ. Today, we recognize this hope that unites us and sustains us.

C: We are people of one hope.

P: Today we celebrate our unity. We set aside the small things that can divide us and remember that — with God — we can overcome all things.

C: We are people of one Lord.

P: Today we acknowledge that we belong to God and to each other as we share the bread and the cup of Holy Communion.

C: We are people of the one God who is above all and through all. Amen.

***Hymn #532**

“Gather Us In”

***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. ~ Beloved God, from You come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 5: 1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song, Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80 (selective verses, read responsively)

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. —————→

**⁸ You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**¹⁰ The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**¹² Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

The Second Reading ~ Philippians 3: 4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Paul writes: ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the

prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)**



***The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 21: 33-46**

When Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting His death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

The Holy Gospel according to the 21st chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again the landowner sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I

tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”
⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded Jesus as a prophet.

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

Sermon

*Hymn #342

“There in God’s Garden”

*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

*The Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God ... Your mercy is great.

Anthem

“Our Song of Fellowship and Faith”

Blessing of the Communion Elements



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

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Anthem

“Communion Prayer”

Post-Communion Blessing and Benediction

As people who have been fed, go now to feed the world.

As those who have been given hope, bring hope in place of despair.

May God help us to do so!

*Closing Hymn #826

“Thine the Amen”

*Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music 

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No formal offering is taking during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex hallway to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

*thank
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

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

... to everyone who helped at our outdoor event yesterday (donating baked goods & other foods and baskets, staffing various tables, helping to set up & clean up, and more)! Your time and dedication were most appreciated.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Emersynn Isla's Shining Star Foundation.



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones we name before God. †



Join us for 8:30am worship next Sunday, October 11th when the “**Good News Traveling Band**” (Gospel singers) will be sharing an uplifting musical message! ~ Please invite family members and friends to come with you that day as well.

Friedens will be having a coat collection throughout the month of October to benefit the clients of Betty Lou's Pantry. Please bring new or used (adult/children/youth) coats in good condition to church and place in the designated bin. Thanks! ☺



The congregation is invited to celebrate Pastor Lisa's ministry and retirement on Sun., October 18th following the worship service that morning. Please sign up in the narthex.