

The 7th Sunday of Easter

May 17th, 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 (by Nancy Johnson)

P: Holy God, Creator of Life, You call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life.

C: **When we see nothing but hopelessness, You surprise us with the breath of your spirit.**

P: Call us out of our complacency and routines and set us free from our self-imposed bonds.

C: **Fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace. In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #748 (WOV) "Bind Us Together"

*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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1: 6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with His disciples on the eve of His ascension, in which He promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶ When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Psalm 68 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,

you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;

you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it;**

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

**³³ You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,

whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**³⁵ How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

The Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roar-

ing lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

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 17: 1-11**

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prays to His heavenly Father, asking that those who continue His work in this world will live in unity.

The Holy Gospel according to the 17th chapter of St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is

from you,⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

Sermon

*Hymn #685 (WOV) “Like the Murmur of the ...”

*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.

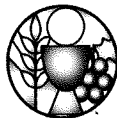
*The Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God ... **Receive our prayer.**

Anthem

“10,000 Reasons”

Blessing of the Elements



The Lord’s Prayer

+ 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.

Post-Communion Blessing and Benediction

P: Go from here in the knowledge that you do not go alone:
the power and presence of God go with you. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #801 (WOV - vs. 1-3) "Thine the Amen"**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

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



*The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Karen Bugger in memory of loved ones.*



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Hope Geary, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shanberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Tyler and Elizabeth, Joe Ulmer, Monica Wagner, Leon Warmkessel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



Please join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th,
as we celebrate the Confirmation of
Thaddeus Edward Leslie

