

7th Sunday of Pentecost

July 27th, 2025 ~ 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

***Lord's Prayer Litany** (by Katherine Hawker)

P: Mystery beyond our knowing, close to us as our breathing, in humble awe we pray.

C: Creator God, we pray for your vision of justice and mercy to be made real in our world even now.

P: We pray for your vision of enough ... enough sustenance, enough warmth, enough healing for all of your children.

C: We pray for the grace to let go of that which is death dealing as we embrace your vision for life, that we might follow You safely through the obstacle course of life.

P: Giving thanks for divine presence that defies definition in this life and beyond. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #WOV 783**

"Seek Ye First"

***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. ~ Almighty and ever-living God, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and You gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abun-

P: dant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Genesis 18: 20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And The Lord said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

Psalm 138 (selective verses read responsively)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you
have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works of your hands.**

The Second Reading ~ Colossians 2: 6-15

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of

the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 11: 1-13**

In teaching His disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages His disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

The Holy Gospel according to the 11th chapter of St. Luke

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before

him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.”

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

The Sermon

Pastor Jerel Gade

*Hymn #WOV 771

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

*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:

God of grace ... **Hear our prayer.**

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

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 for the 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post-Communion Prayer and Benediction

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God — Creator, Savior, and Spirit — bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #WOV 721

"Go, My Children ..."

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

*From Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #36667 NRSV Bible 2025.
Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.*

*thank
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector

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

... to Janet Heckman for serving as our organist

... to the Rev. Jerel Gade for leading our worship service

The altar flowers have been
sponsored by Carolyn Wallace in loving
memory of her parents, Alvin and Shirley
Tuomela



To be remembered in prayer ... Quinette Brucker, Leona Callahan, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

Financial gifts to help those in Texas devastated by the floods may be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response - U.S. Flooding

P. O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Lutheran
Disaster Response