

2nd Sunday of Pentecost

June 22nd, 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

***Opening Litany (by the Rev. Christine Sobania)**

P: Lord, You are only as far away as the sound of our whispers will travel, yet we so often struggle to speak with You intimately.

C: Hear our purposeful prayers.

P: Forgive us when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from You without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with You. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same.

C: Hear our purposeful prayers.

P: Forgive us when we approach You begging for guidance and direction, but then neglect to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers.

C: Hear our purposeful prayers.

P: Lord, You have given us another chance to appreciate the fullness of your love. Help us to try, once again, to shed our self-interest and find joy in serving your interests. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #510 “Word of God, Come Down ...”**

***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 Lord God, we bring before You the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy, set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 65: 1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. ² I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³ a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; ⁴ who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; ⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

⁶ See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. ⁸ Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. ⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

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

Psalm 22 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**

²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²² **I will declare your name to my people;**

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵ From 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!**

²⁷ All 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.**

The Second Reading ~ Galatians 3: 23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 8: 26-39**

Though the disciples struggle with Jesus' nature and identity, they receive the promise that they, too, will be identified with God and God's mission. Though He must leave them now, Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.

The Holy Gospel according to the 8th chapter of St. Luke

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ Then Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was

drowned. ³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So the man went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

The Sermon

*Hymn # 651

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

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

Anthem

“As the Deer”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

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 Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: We give You thanks, O Lord, that in your great love You have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of your Son, Je-

P: sus Christ. May your grace fill us and help us always to live a life well pleasing to You in love and service. **Amen.**

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope! **Amen.**

*Hymn #456

“Baptized in Water”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



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*Everyone is invited to come downstairs to the
fellowship hall after worship to enjoy
coffee hour & conversation!*

*thank
you*

... to Alex Stauffer for serving as our lector

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

To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Hope Geary, Helen Kerositz, Jeanne Logan, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, especially Ukraine and Israel, and others whom we name before God.



Sat.,
July 12th



9am to
noon

Looking for a small corps of volunteers to help with some dusting, washing, & cleaning. Lunch will be provided.

Please sign up on sheet in narthex if you can help!



The altar flowers have been placed in loving remembrance of the 65th wedding anniversary of Francis and Nancy Filler.

Thank you, dear Friedens, for the lovely brunch and celebration of my 35th ordination anniversary last Sunday! Your expressions of kindness mean so much to me.

Pastor Lisa


*Thank
you!*