

7th Sunday of Easter

June 1st, 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** (Presbyterian Church in Canada)

P: We say that we want Jesus to return and we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." And yet, we confess our fears and uncertainty about the return of Christ and what it will mean for us and for the world.

C: **Jesus prayed that we might be one with You, O God, and with each other. And yet, so often, we wish to maintain our independence and control.**

P: We resist the burden of being unified with those around us, especially when they want different things than we do or pull us in directions we do not wish to go.

C: **Soften our resistance, gracious Lord, and draw us into an authentic relationship with You and true community with one another. We pray this in the name of your Son who prayed and still prays for us. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn #393** "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

***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, form the minds of your faithful people

P: into your one will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Acts 16: 16-34

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide

open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

The Second Reading ~ Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

¹² "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶ "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. ²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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

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





You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Holy Gospel ~ John 17: 20-26

Jesus prays that the life of His followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus prayed: ²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #655

"Son of God Eternal Savior"

The Rite of Confirmation (please see insert)

We warmly welcome Ava Rose Baird into adult membership at Friedens as she is confirmed in the Christian faith. † God richly bless & keep you, Ava!

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

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

Anthem

"Indescribable"

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, Jesus 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 #550**

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



Worship has ended, but now our service begins!

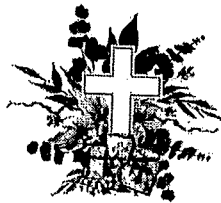
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*thank
you*

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector

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

Please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall after the
worship service for cake, fruit, and beverages in celebration
of Ava Baird's confirmation!



The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Carolyn Tuomela Wallace in honor of her
granddaughter, Ava.



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.



"Affirmation of Holy Baptism"

The Rite of Confirmation for Ava Rose Baird

P: We welcome Ava Rose Baird who now desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray. ~ Merciful God, we thank You for this sister in Christ whom You have made Your own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. You have called her to Yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of Your spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold Your servant, Ava, in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom You have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Ava, I now ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce all the forces that defy God?

Y: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?

Y: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

Y: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Y: 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

(cont.) **again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Y: **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.**

P: Ava, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Y: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

(The confirmand will now kneel.)

P: Let us pray. ~ We give You thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, You give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(The pastor will now lay her hand upon the confirmand's head.)

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake ... stir up in Ava Rose the gift of Your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life. Amen.

(The youth will stand.)

Let us rejoice with our new sister in Christ!

ALL: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world!**

