

4th Sunday of Easter

May 11th, 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 for Good Shepherd Sunday**

P: We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God, who calls us each by name, who restores our souls, who leads us in the way of righteousness, and whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us.

C: This is the God we have come to worship!

P: Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence, singing with joy!

C: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

P: Enter the gates with thanksgiving; go into the courts with praise.

C: God's unfailing love continues forever, and God's faithfulness continues to each generation.

***Opening Hymn #414**

"Holy God, We Praise ..."

***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 peace, you brought again from the

P: dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 9: 36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm 23 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,



and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall
fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

**⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The Second Reading ~ Revelation 7: 9-17

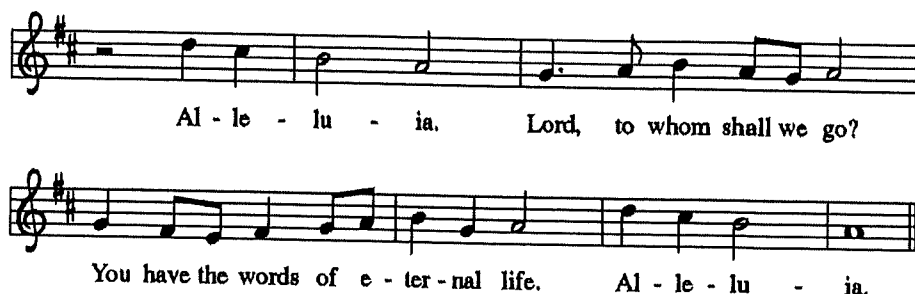
Christ is the shepherd who leads His faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

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



*The Holy Gospel ~ John 10: 22-30

The risen Christ appears again to His disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, He gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

The Holy Gospel according to the 10th chapter of St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

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

The Sermon

Pastor Ron Hari

*Hymn #789

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

*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:

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

Anthem

“My Shepherd”

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 sin. 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: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection You send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

P: God who fills the creation with abundance; Christ who spreads His arms in forgiveness; Holy Spirit who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Hymn #778

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the risen Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to the Rev. Ron Hari for leading our worship service

... to Kay Sheerer for serving as our lector

... to Kevin Filler & Bill Heins for serving as our counters

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



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



Pentecost Geraniums



Bright red geranium plants will adorn our sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. The cost is \$6 per plant and the deadline to place all orders is Sunday, May 18th.

Name _____

Phone # _____ # of Plants _____

Dedication for bulletin _____

The altar flowers are sponsored by Carolyn
Wallace in honor of Shirley Tuomela



Needed food items for Betty Lou's Pantry

The following items are currently needed:

spaghetti sauce, cereal, and meat/tuna helpers

(Please bring to church any time during the month of May.)