

5th Sunday of Easter

May 18th, 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



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany**

P: Holy God, the first and the last, beginning and end of all things, You are worthy of praise from all your creation.

C: **Sun, moon, and stars praise You. Earth, sea, and sky praise You. Every living thing praises You in its own way.**

P: And so we praise You in our human diversity, joining our varied voices with all your creatures in heaven and on earth.

C: **You fill our lives with the wonder of your love in Christ Jesus. Your Spirit moves throughout the world to reveal your purposes for every living thing.**

P: Receive our prayers and praise this day, for You are the Source of our life and our hope, Holy God, ever Three and Ever One. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #482**

"I Come with Joy"

***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, You teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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 11: 1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the be-

beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.

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

Psalm 148 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only
is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading ~ Revelation 21: 1-6

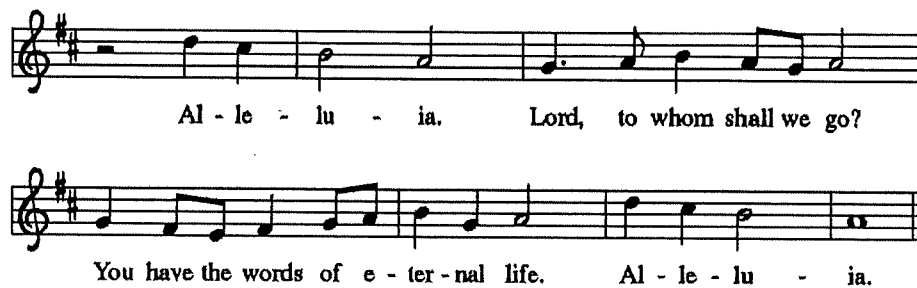
John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

- ¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first

earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making *all* things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ John 13: 31-35**

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting His betrayal, and then revealing His betrayer, Jesus speaks of His glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

The Holy Gospel according to the 13th chapter of St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love

one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

The Sermon

***Hymn #359 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”**

***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

“Jesus Loves You”

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: 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 #424** "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

***The 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 Kristin N. & Kim S. for serving as our counters

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

The altar flowers are sponsored by





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

Needed items for Betty Lou's Pantry

spaghetti sauce, cereal, meat/tuna helpers

(Please bring items to church any time during the month of May. Thank you!)



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 TODAY.

Name _____

Phone # _____ # of Plants _____

Dedication for bulletin _____
