

# The 4th Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

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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 John van de Laar)

P: Good Shepherd, teach us to follow You ... to care for all who are close to us, to protect those who are threatened, and to welcome those who are rejected.

C: **Savior, give us compassionate hearts to forgive those who are burdened by guilt, to heal those who are broken and sick, to share with those who have little or nothing, and to take the time to really know one another and love as You have loved us.**

P: Good Shepherd, teach us to follow You ... to spread compassion to those who are far away, to speak for those who are voiceless, and to defend those who are oppressed and abused.

C: **Savior, give us the courage to work for justice for those who are exploited, to make peace for those who suffer violence, to take the time to recognize our connectedness, and to love as You have loved us.**

P: Good Shepherd, teach us to follow You and to be faithful to the calling You gave us to be shepherds in your name.  
Amen.

\*Opening Hymn #385      "Good Christian Friends ..."

\*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 our shepherd, You know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2: 42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

Psalm 23 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

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

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

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

<sup>6</sup> **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 ~ 1 Peter 2: 19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

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



### \*The Holy Gospel ~ John 10: 1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of His day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

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

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

Sermon

\*Hymn #764

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

\*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.**

**\*The Prayers of Intercession**

*After each prayer petition, please respond:*

**Merciful God ... Receive our prayer.**

**Anthem "God's Strength Will Make A Way"**

**Blessing of the Elements**



**The Lord's Prayer**

**+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +**

*This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.*

**Post-Communion Blessing and Benediction**

**P: May the light and love of the risen Christ fill your hearts and souls with peace. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #774 "What a Fellowship ..."**

**\*Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Praise the risen Lord!**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude Music**



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*thank  
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

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



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Hope Geary, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Monica Wagner, Leon Warmkessel, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

**Thanks**

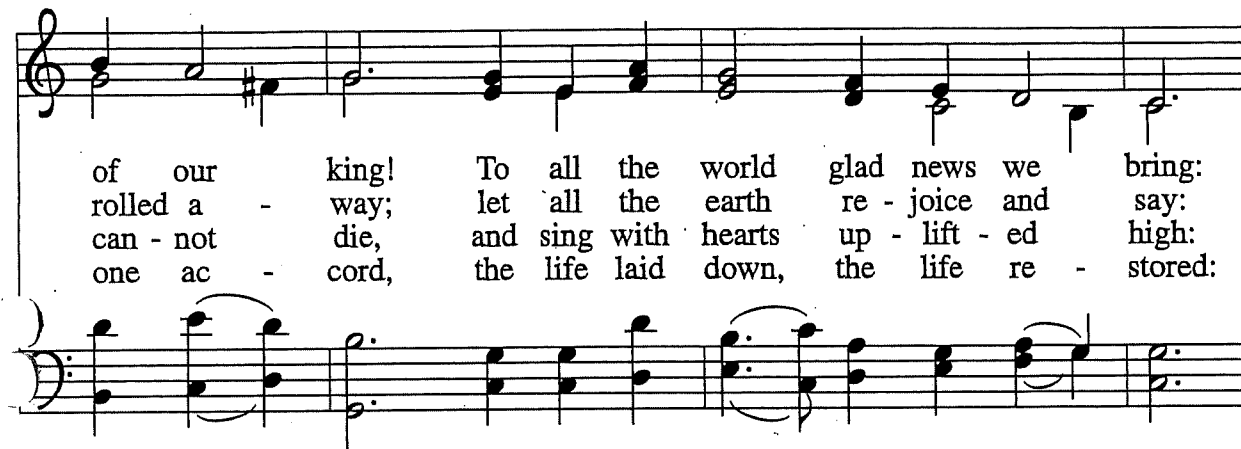
... to all the volunteers (cooks, bakers, meal assemblers, deliverers) who helped to make our drive-thru pulled pork dinner a success yesterday and to all the members and friends who supported this endeavor! Proceeds will benefit Friedens' building fund.



# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

764

## Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4  
 Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930  
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

LITTLE FLOCK  
 66766

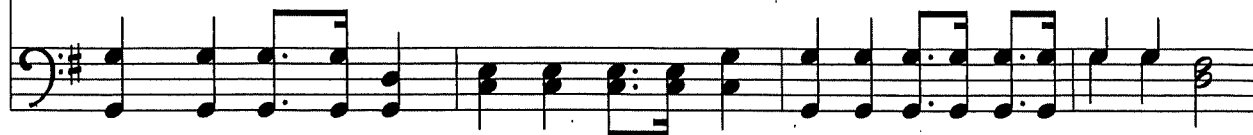
# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1. What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,