

You're Welcome...

Easter 5: April 28, 2024



THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM



Announcements

Prelude: *Now Winter Fades from Sight*, J.S. Bach

(please stand and face the baptismal font)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C. Amen

P. Look, here is water!

C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P. Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P. Look, here is water!

C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen

P. Look, here is water!

C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Entrance Hymn: #449 WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED

Apostolic Greeting

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.

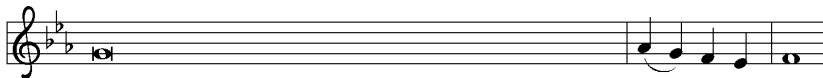
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



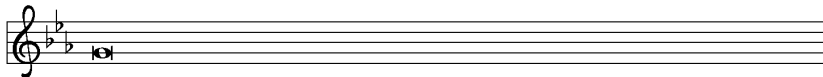
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



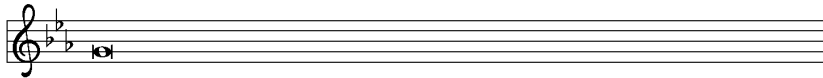
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo-ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:



Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and strength, and

Bless-ing and hon-or, glo-ry and might be to



hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be-



gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Refrain

The Prayer of the Day:

P. O God,

C. you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(please be seated)

WORD

The First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁷This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31 (sung responsively with the cantor)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ¹ live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow ¹ before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD, who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ¹ down in worship; all who go down to the dust,
though they be dead, shall kneel be- ¹ fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall ¹ serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- ¹ tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

The Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21 ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L. The Word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

The Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

P. The Holy Gospel according to John. **C. Glory to you, O Lord, (spoken)**
¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch

cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

(please stand)

Hymn of the Day: #690 WE RAISE OUR HANDS TO YOU, O LORD

Stanza 1 will be sung by the cantor.

The congregation will join in singing stanzas 2-5.

Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please kneel or be seated)

The Prayers:

A. Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

(after each petition, please respond)

A. God of grace, **C. hear our prayer.**

P. Gracious God, during these times of fear, grief, and uncertainty that weigh heavily on our hearts and minds, we pray to you for comfort and strength. As we look towards the future of our beloved congregation and its ministries, we seek your guidance and help in faithfully setting aside our desires and placing our trust in your unending love and the certainty that it is your will that will be done. We ask you for the wisdom to accept your will with faith in your live-giving grace.

P. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C. Amen

(please stand)

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **C. And also with you!**

(please be seated)

Offertory: Sr. Choir: *Live Your Love*, Stacey Nordmeyer

(please stand)

**The
Offertory:**

*"Let the
Vineyards..."*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The Offertory Prayer

P. Risen One,

C. you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen

The Preface Dialogue:

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface for Easter:

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharist Prayer:

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others. In the night in which he was handed over, 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. Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on

this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

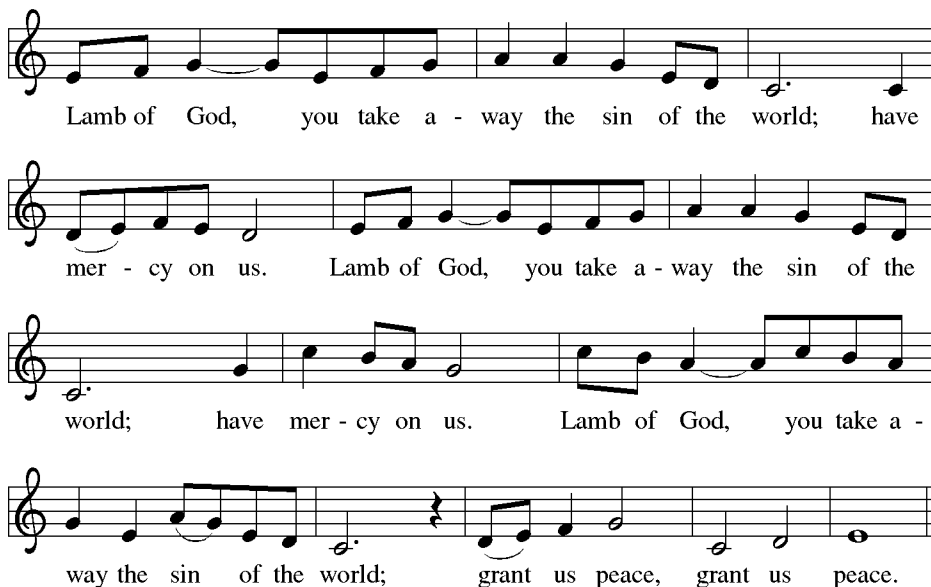
C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

The Fraction:

P. The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

C. Thanks be to God!

The Agnus Dei - LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution:

(All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a glass to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful.)

#377 ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!

#359 WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

#800 SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

#477 I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD
#547 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

The Blessing of Communicants:

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

P. Shepherding God,
C. you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen

The Benediction

P. The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
bless you now and always.
C. Amen

The Dismissal

A. Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

(please be seated)

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

<p>ASSISTING MINISTERS 9:00 John Fuehrer</p> <p>LECTOR 9:00 John Fuehrer</p> <p>COUNCIL TEAM 9:00 Lisa Garrett, Christy Boos</p> <p>ACOLYTES 9:00 Natalie Mull, Clarice Doughty</p> <p>AV Live Stream</p>	<p>ALTAR GUILD 9:00 Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett</p> <p>USHERS 9:00 Tom & Kitty Dickersheid</p> <p>Launder Linens: Lori Spitzer</p> <p>Deliver Flowers: Winnie Gerlach</p> <hr/> <p>WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:</p> <p>✠ To the glory of God.</p>
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Prayers of the People

The Mull family

Roy & Paige Rettew

Henry Perella – great-nephew of Judy Williams

David Albright – son of Betty Albright

Matthew – relative of Betty Albright

Les Doremus – Dan Doremus' and Marti Nissley's brother

Christina Clement – Judy Williams niece

Matt Dickersheid – Tom & Kitty Dickersheid's son

Sue Rentschler – 116 Barn Owl Rd. Lititz, PA 17543

Michael Williams – 921 N State St. Ephrata, PA 17522. Hip replacement surgery on Feb. 12

Tony Perella – Judy Williams' nephew

Terry Gehman – 11 Pleasant Road, Gordonville, PA 17529

Brian Sweigart – The Gardens at Stevens, Rm. 313, 400 Lancaster Ave. Stevens, PA 17578

Hank & Pat Kajetzke – friends of Judy & Michael Williams

Alysha Fassnacht – Daughter in law of Sharon and Kurt Fassnacht

Rick & Connie Hutchinson – 1010 James Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Candice Walker – 270 Stevens Rd. Stevens, PA 17578

All people affected by war

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Biden and leaders of this nation, Leaders and policy makers of every nation

All outreach ministries, serving those in need

All those who have suffered losses during the current pandemic and all those front line and essential workers keeping us safe.



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please contact the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish to be on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please contact the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstance making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna
Emmalyn Mulvenna
Janet Brunner
Andrew Campbell
Michael Spennath
Asher D'Agostino
Paul Naffin

COL. Eric Bowers
Dan Wierbiki
Jacob Hinkle Jr.
Karen Woerner Kim
Kim Harnish
Rick Gerhard
Wyatt Geisthweit

Jim Weik
Heidi White
Johnny White
Jacob Connelly
Sue & Denis Rowe
Crystal Perry

Brent Stever
Alan & family
Dori Hoch
Cindy Stahl
Grant Hummer
Bruce Snader
Martha Becker
Crystal Perry

John Surdich
Elle Pogreba
Sue James
Ava Berkosky
Amy Pasili
Theresa Cimino
Roy Rettew