



St. Luke Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown
Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021
Holy Communion Service

Telephone Number - Office: 717-949-3375 churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net
Web-Site: www.stlukelutheran.org

Our Guiding Story and Mission
The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

As the Body of Christ we proclaim the Gospel by serving and doing God's will
in a manner that meets the needs of our changing world.

HEALTH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR ATTENDEES:

Please Do Not Stay If You Answer Yes to the Following Questions:

1. Do you have a cough, fever or flu-like symptoms? (some flu-like symptoms could be: fatigue, chills, fever, muscle pain, cough, headache, sore throat) – **if yes, please go home and call your Doctor**
2. Have you had a COVID-19 test in the past 14 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**
3. Have you come in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**

Stay at Your Own Risk If You Answer Yes to the Following Question:

Are you over age 65 and or someone with any underlying health issues (diabetes, lung disease, hypertension, kidney disease or a decreased immune system)? – if yes, stay at your own risk

Being Mindful of Others: Masks, Distancing, and Other Mitigation Practices

So that we may be more safely worshiping together, we follow these additional steps with due diligence to mitigate the possibility of spreading illness.

All wear masks that cover both your nose and mouth.

All place folding chair at least six feet from anyone who does not live in your home

All use hand sanitizer upon arrival (dispenser is on the table by the stairway)

All take their bulletin home

Offerings are placed in the receptacle on the table by the stairway – Thank you!!

Only the leading musicians will sing

Passing the peace will take place with gestures – we will neither mingle or touch or shout

All bring a cracker or piece of bread from home on Communion Sundays (1st and 3rd Sundays)

Welcome/Announcements

The Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Holy Trinity, One God: our creator and liberator, our living water and bread of life, our comforter and teacher.

C: Amen.

Let us pause for self-examination and come into the revealing, yet healing light of God. God of grace and glory, you have brought us through the night of sin and into the light of Jesus' resurrection.

C: yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Make us alive in Christ. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin. Pour over us your refreshing love and restore us to servant living, through Jesus Christ, our risen, living Lord. Amen.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne. The sacrificial, unmerited love of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. We have forgiveness and freedom from sin in his righteousness. He graces us with eternal life for servant living. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

C: Amen. Thank's be to Jesus.

Opening Hymn LBW #315 "Love Divine All Loves Excelling"
 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
 Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
 let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
 suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

Then 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day LBW #385 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse
 for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down
 beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown
 for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,
 I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

The Message

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith.

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**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. With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Offering: Thank you for faithfully mailing your offering envelope or placing them in the container today.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharist Prayer

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Remembering Eucharist *(Please locate your piece of bread or cracker)*

Lord, in this time of pandemic, as we protect others and ourselves from COVID-19 by not coming forward as usual for Your promised presence in bread and wine, given for us to share around the table of your family, we remember:

At the Last Supper, Jesus knew his disciples would be devastated by his leaving them, so he wanted to give them the assurance that he would be present with them always in a very special way; the way Yahweh made himself present to Moses in the burning bush, [to his exodus people in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night,] to the Israelites in the show bread preserved in the temple, to Elijah at Mt. Sinai in a still small voice, [and as a dove and the voice from heaven in the Baptism of Jesus].

Jesus' love is very tender, and in that tenderness He wants us to know that we are never alone, but that he is always with us. And so, at the end of the Passover meal on the night 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."

Therefore, we take and eat this bread from our homes knowing Jesus is here – in, with, under, and through this form of bread, and ourselves. The Presence of Jesus.

Thanks be to God. (Please eat your bread or cracker)

In doing this, Jesus gave his disciples a precious heritage, a way of assuring them of His constant presence and never failing love. Jesus told them, "Whoever eats this bread abides in me and I in

them." This presence, shared by his closest friends, smuggled into Roman prisons, and passed on through generations of followers to us, was and continues to be a great comfort to all who know Jesus' presence. Therefore we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God, the merciful and mighty, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – send us light and truth to keep us all our days.

**C: May his hand protect us, his holy angels accompany us,
and his blessing envelop us, now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn LBW #144

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing!”

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

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Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

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Supply Pastor: The Rev. Angela Hammer
Soloist: Sarah Kneller

Minister of Music: Linda Holt
Worship Assistant: Mike DeLong

Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

Please be in Prayer for and with St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Judy Plummer, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

The 2021 Flower and Bulletin charts can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions concerning these charts please call the church office at 717-949-3375.

April 25, 2021

Attendance - 30

Offering - \$1,462.00

You will find **Pentecost Geranium Envelopes** in the Vestibule and downstairs Miller Chapel. The cost of one plant is \$6.00. Orders are due by today, May 2nd. Pentecost Sunday is May 23, 2021.

The Monthly Ministry Emphasis for the month of May will go towards **“The Lebanon Rescue Mission.”** Thank you again for your continued support.

Parents of **graduating students**, please let the church office know (717) 949-3375 if your children are graduating from high school, college or a trade school. Also, what their future plans might be or future job placement.

St. Luke History Books are available for \$20.00. Call Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or email at mrgrubby@comcast.net.

Adult Sunday School Class: If you are interested in small group discussions, please consider joining us Sunday mornings at 10:15 am in the chapel basement. We are currently doing a series titled **“A Thinking Person’s Guide to Faith”** narrated by Adam Hamilton. Topics include 1) Science, Religion and the Rationality of God, 2) When Christians Get it Wrong, 3) Making Sense of the Bible and 4) The Love of God and the Logic of Hell. All are welcome. Masks and social distancing are required.

The **Book Club** will be meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00pm. We will be discussing the book **A Burning**, by Meghannas Majumdar. If anyone has any questions or would like to join in on the discussion please contact Richelle Deysher.