

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and Handicap Friendly Congregation

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.  
Emmaus, PA 18049-1599  
PHONE 610.967.2220  
FAX 610.966.3021

email [info@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:info@holyspirit-emmaus.org)  
[www.lchsemmaus.org](http://www.lchsemmaus.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus](https://www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus)



RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

8:30 am

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life**

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

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*The Easter or Paschal candle, placed near the baptismal font,  
is a symbol that can be traced back at least to the seventh century.*

*It signifies the resurrection and is lit for services  
throughout the Easter season until Pentecost,  
and again whenever there is a baptism.*

*The Paschal candle is lit for funerals to signify new life in Christ after death.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Gathering Music**

Is He Worthy

Crowder

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Lighting the Paschal Candle and Affirmation of Baptism**

This is the Good News –  
The grave is empty,  
Christ is risen.

**Hallelujah!**

This is the Good News –  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

**Hallelujah!**

This is the Good News –  
Once we were no people,  
now we are God's people.

**Hallelujah!**

Let us pray.

O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*The paschal candle is lighted.*

Christ is alive,  
**moving among the living.**  
Christ is risen,  
**inviting us to rise in fullness of life.**

Christ is calling,  
**proclaiming life and hope for all.**

*In remembrance of our baptism, the Pastor blesses the congregation with water.*

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. As we remember our own baptisms, pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children with all the baptized in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Gathering Song**

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen  
Verses 1, 4, 5

ELW Song #377



1 Al - le - lu - ia!                    Je - sus    is    ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing    the    way,            Christ    in    the    cen - ter  
3 Je - sus    the    vine,            we    are    the    branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing,    be    gone;            sor - row,    be    si - lent:  
5 Cit - y    of    God,            Eas - ter    for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing    in    glo - ri - ous    light!  
tell - ing    the    sto - ry    to    o - pen    our    eyes;  
life    in    the    Spir - it    the    fruit    of    the    tree;  
death    put    a - sun - der,    and    Eas - ter    is    bright.  
gold - en    Je - ru - sa - lem,    Je - sus    the    Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our risen Lord, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of love and mystery, the Christ you have raised from the dead is the Christ who lives in us. By this mystery you give us courage to love, willingness to trust, and faith to endure. Your love can't be defeated. Your presence can't be taken from us. All the powers of evil and injustice, even sin, even death, are vulnerable to your grace. May Christ rise in our hearts, fill us with your light, and lead us with joy into new lives. We pray in the continually renewing Spirit of Christ.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.*

**Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters,  
the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received,  
in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved,  
if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to  
believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received:  
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures  
and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day  
in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas,  
then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters  
at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.  
Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.  
Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle,  
because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God  
I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain.  
On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them,  
though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me.  
Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

*Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel** John 20:1-18

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Open our hearts, Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,  
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed  
from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,  
the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “

They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,  
and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter  
and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in  
and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head,  
not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first,  
also went in, and he saw and believed,

for as yet they did not understand the scripture,  
that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb,  
and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,  
one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord,  
and I do not know where they have laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,  
but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?  
Whom are you looking for?”  
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,  
“Sir, if you have carried him away,  
tell me where you have laid him,  
and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her,  
“Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,  
“Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her,  
“Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.  
But go to my brothers and say to them,  
‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,  
“I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Receive the good news handed down by the saints from generation to generation.  
**As saints have proclaimed the gospel, so shall we believe and live it.**  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Mark Wimmer

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Word in Song**


Jesus Christ Is Risen Today  
Verses 1, 2, 4

ELW Song #365




1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!





our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## Prayers of the People

### *Invitation to prayer:*

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:*

Lord, hear our prayer:  
**your steadfast love endures forever.**

### *Pastor's closing prayer:*

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.  
 Amen

## **Peace**

God sends this message of joy to all people,  
preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.  
Let us share this holy peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,  
"Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Response to God's gifts**

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

### **Musical Offering**

Glorious Day (*Living He Loved*)

Casting Crown

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of Easter, lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.**

Give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

**We sing our Alleluias to the God of everlasting love.**

We give thanks for your risen Son, Jesus,  
who was dead and buried,  
but who you raised on this day  
and who is alive forever,  
reaching out to us,  
wiping away our tears and calling us by name.

## **Words of Institution**

### **Word in Meal**

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God,  
for you have rolled away the stone of despair,  
the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief,  
the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.  
Shape your church to be your risen body;  
make our lives life-giving like your life,  
and make our communion holy with your saints,  
until you come again in glory and we eat with you in your kingdom,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, ever one God.

**Amen**

## **Lord's Prayer**

God in Community, Holy in One, very early on this first day of the week,  
as we do on every day of our lives, we lift our prayers as Jesus has taught us.

**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**

## **Invitation to the table**

Christ is risen, and the feast is ready!  
He has laid the table and invites all who love him  
to share the meal he has prepared.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Distribution of communion**

**Communion Duet**

He Is

Crowder/Bentley/Pardo

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



*Refrain*

wom - an or man, no more.  
 one in the Lord of all.  
 gath - ered to one for all.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Prayer after communion**

Let us pray.

Living God, provider of all things, we thank you for this bread and cup, signs of the presence of the risen Lord.

Strengthen us through your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live in unity as Christ's body  
and proclaim your love to all the world.  
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

**Amen**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Blessing

May the Lord our Creator bless you,  
may our Redeemer, the shepherd, lead you,  
and may the Sanctifier sustain you this day and forevermore.

**Amen**

### Sending Song

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia  
Verses 1, 4, 5

ELW Song #364



*M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,*

- 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
- 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
- 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



*m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.*

Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,  
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
 He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.  
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
 and in its con - quest his might did show.  
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

*Refrain*

Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.  
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.  
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;  
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.  
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
 He has arisen this world to save.  
 Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
 Even the battle with sin is won."

*Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
 Alleluia, to him praises be.  
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
 he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.

*Refrain*

## **Dismissal**

Go and tell the good news of Jesus Christ:

He is risen!

He is life.

He is love.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:**

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).



## **Easter Flowers Given in Memory of.....**

Ada and Ed Bahr, Violet Ballard, by Vi and Chuck Ballard  
Louise Bastian, by Terry Bastian  
George Berges, by Janet Berges  
Our parents, Hazel and G. Clair Koontz, Faith and Don Bradley,  
by Tom and Lisa Bradley  
Parents and grandparents, by Debe Brown  
Cameron Olson, by the Camp Family  
My parents and brother, by Mary Jane Cerone  
Walter and Hilda Danicke, Bernard and Kathleen Epperly,  
Hank Cassler, Donald Crawford and Richard Danicke  
by Mike and Carolyn Epperly  
James Geiling, by Peggy Geiling and Family  
Joann Gregory, by John D. Gregory and Family  
Dr. and Mrs. George Heintzelman, Marie Heintzelman,  
Ruth Frickert, by Linda and Richard Heintzelman  
Mother, Joyce Helfrich, by Terri and Glenn Hinderliter  
Ronald W. Jackson, Sr., by Joie Jackson Wenner,  
Ronald W. Jackson, Jr., Jennifer, Chuck, Charlie  
and Madison Peters  
Diane Keister, by Irv Keister  
Donald Krall, by Anna Krall  
Clare, by Joyce Krystopowicz  
James S. MacLachlan, by Barbara MacLachlan  
Parents, Bill and Alice Mudge, by Alice Mudge  
Loved ones, by Barbara S. Mumbauer  
Ann L. Neitz, by Rob Neitz  
Dad, Richard Houck and loving Grandparents, by Angie Niland  
Our parents, by Carl and Marilee Oplinger  
Sr. Janice, Nemeth and Osenbach families,  
by the Osenbach Family  
Anna Quinn, Jason Carroll, by Michael Quinn  
Brother David, by Glynnis Rea  
Dale A. Reichley, by Pastor Tami and Family  
Joel and MaryEllen Kleckner, by JoEllen, Steve,  
and Ryan Rooney

Lavern Pahr-Smith, by Bob and Deb Stevens  
Andrew and Helen Neupauer, Adrian and Maria Vink,  
by Tim and Mary Vink  
Loved ones, by Carol and Don Walrod  
Edna and Leroy Strawn and Laura and Luther Wilttrout,  
by Nancy and Frank Wilttrout  
George Berges, by Leesa and Mark Wimmer

### **Easter Flowers Given in Honor of.....**

Holy Spirit's visionary and proactive Church Council and its hard-working staff  
and tireless volunteers, by Tom and Lisa Bradley



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Communion Duet: CCLI  
Communion Song: OneLicense  
Sending Song: OneLicense

Musical Participants: Eric Kahler, Jeff Gross



## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor  
Sharon B. MacCabe, Director of Music  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

## **WORSHIP HELPERS**

### **Assisting Minister**

Linda Devine

### **Reader**

Linda Devine

### **Communion Assistants**

Rob Smith, Sue Smith

### **Greeter**

Mary Vink

### **Ushers**

Lorie Stout Sherman, Tim Vink

### **Production/Technology Team**

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,  
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,  
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Altar Care**

Jennifer Wetzel, Nancy Pfeffer, Julie Timmcke, Linda Letts, Deb Stevens, Lynn Snyder,  
Barb Roba, Cindy Clark, Carol Osenbach, Terri Hinderliter, Robbie Flynn