

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

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

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*“Love
each other
as I have
loved you.”*
JOHN 15:12, NIV



Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 5, 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.

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.

GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Here I Am to Worship

Hughes

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Affirmation of Baptism and Easter Greeting

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!

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

Come, All You People

ELW 819




U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
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 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, you sent your only Son to lay down his life for the world.

Teach us to love one another as Christ has first loved us.

Draw us closer to Christ in love, not as servants but as friends.

Help us to keep his commandments, that our joy may be complete,
abiding in your love forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

Reading 1 John 5:1-6

Translation: NIV

A reading from First John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God,
and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

This is how we know that we love the children of God:
by loving God and carrying out his commands.

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.

And his commands are not burdensome, for
everyone born of God overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ.
He did not come by water only, but by water and blood.
And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

Gospel John 15:9-17

Translation: NIV

The Good News from John, the 15th chapter.
Open our hearts, Lord.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Tami Reichley

Please stand as you are able.

Word in Song

If You Love Me

LS 147



1 If you love me, tru - ly love me, keep my com-mand-ments
2 If you love me, tru - ly love me, come now and my dis -



day by day. If you love me, tru - ly love me,
ci - ple be. If you love me, tru - ly love me,



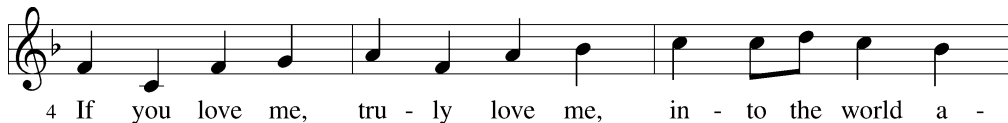
fol - low for - ev - er in my way.
fol - low and so re - mem - ber me.



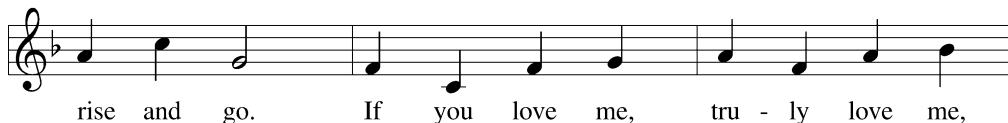
3 Through the land my peo - ple feed, al - le - lu - ia,



in their sor - row, in their need, al - le - lu - ia.



4 If you love me, tru - ly love me, in - to the world a -



rise and go. If you love me, tru - ly love me,



there ev - 'ry - where my wit - ness show.

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:

God of love,
hear our prayer.

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

As God has loved us, so shall we love each other.

As Christ called us friends, so we have become friends to one another.

Let us live in God's love together now, sharing both friendship and peace.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

May the risen Lord be with you! **And also with you.**

Resurrection people, lift your hearts to God.

We lift our hearts to the One who gives us new life.

Sing with joy on this day of resurrection. **Our songs of joy overflow this day.**

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

Pour out your joyful Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup
and on your children gathered at your feast.

We would open our hearts to receive the bread of life,
not with silenced gratitude, but with glad songs of joy.

We would empty ourselves to be filled with the cup's compassion,
not with speechless thanks but with shouts of praise.

As we learn the new song of sacrifice on behalf of others,
we would go to serve the brokenhearted;

as we are given the instruments of praise,

we would turn them into the means to transform

the lives of the hungry, the homeless, the forgotten, the outcast.

Lord's Prayer

Every song, old and new, is offered to you, Holy One,
even as we lift the prayer Jesus teaches:

**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

Jesus invites us to this table not as servants but as friends.
Come with joy.
Come with love.
All is ready.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a wade'cross Jor - dan's riv-er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm goin'-a wade'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The assembly may remain seated.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.
 Shepherding God,
 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

SENDING

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

Commissioning of LDR Mission Trip Team

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth
in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Let us pray.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,
clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger,
care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in service to others,
and especially to those in need.

We pray especially for those in York whose homes have suffered from flood damage.
Keep those who serve and those who receive safe and free from harm.

God, use us always to your glory and for the welfare of people everywhere.

Amen

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

People of God, abide in God's love.

May God's love and faithfulness flow through you,
even to the ends of the earth.

In the name of God, the Creator, Son, the Redeemer,
and Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier.

Amen

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Musician
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Deb Stevens

Reader

Becky Keane

Song Leader

Shannon Diaz

Communion Assistants

Angie Niland, Fran Derhammer

Greeter

Christine Bolen

Usher

Bob Bolen

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

Cynthia Clark, Julie Timmcke, Marlene Feulner,
Rich Feulner, Lynn Snyder, Carol Osenbach, Barb Roba