

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

- IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street, and set your radio to **90.1 FM.** Bulletins and other handouts will be distributed after you have parked your car, and your offering will be gathered then as well. For Communion, please hold onto the wafers in plastic bags that you will have been given until the consecration and invitation to commune takes place later in the service. Pastor will try to lead part of the service from outside. Rest rooms are available in the church building.
- IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS, please park at the far side of the front lot, the back lot, or one of the handicap spaces. Bulletins and other handouts will be distributed after you enter the lobby, and your offering will be gathered at that time. Masks will be worn in the building, or outside when talking to others, and everyone needs to stay six feet away from people in other households. Because speaking and singing can spread the virus even when wearing masks, we will not speak the responses out loud or sing the assisting minister will speak the responses in the service and a cantor will sing on our behalf.
- VISITORS, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now

 and so we are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

HOLY COMMUNION

5th Sunday in Easter – May 2nd, 2021 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

PRELUDES

GATHERING

Alleluia

Earth and All Stars

Jeff Honoré

Keith Kolander

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and
by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us, so that we may delight
in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister Of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING

ENTRANCE HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises

379

- Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again; laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958
Text from Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

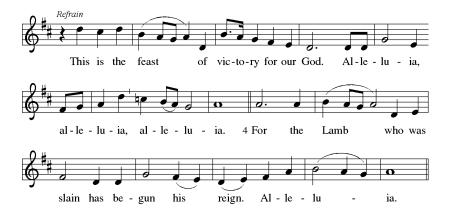
Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

WORD

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 8:26-40

The assembly inside is seated.

²⁶An 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?" 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

The assembly inside stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM Christ is the Vine James Biery Jenna Hutchings, soloist

A prerecorded anthem is available to view in Sunday's recorded service on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Tanya Cartwright

A prerecorded children's sermon is available to view in Sunday's recorded service on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel.

SERMON Pastor David Rowe

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Gather Us In

532

 ${\it The assembly inside stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.}$

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken,

we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

 Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. A brief silence

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth, so that it may bear fruit, and witness to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As the world endures the Coronavirus pandemic, bless the work of virus researchers, medical workers, and vaccine clinics; schools, teachers, and students; essential workers, people working for their daily bread, and the unemployed; therapists, addiction counselors, and domestic violence workers; and especially the people of your church who through their daily work and witness declare your merciful love in the midst of the human family. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence that they may lead not by fear, but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all who sick, especially those whom we now raise in prayer before you.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; then the cantor inside, and the assembly outside, responds with the "Holy, Holy, Holy".

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.

THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

The thanksgiving concludes:

... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

. . . To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

...Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

 $Communion\ wafers\ that\ have\ been\ distributed\ and\ now\ consecrated,\ are\ eaten.$

The body of Christ given for you. Amen.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. 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.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG We Know That Christ Is Raised # 449

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!
- We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life, as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!
- The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932. Text © John B. Geyer

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.
Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound

Mark Sedio

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License with Video Streaming #SAS000730. From CCLI. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Christian Copyright Licensing Internaltion, Inc. #11247411. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-735134. All rights reserved.

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, David Griffiths, Beryl Zulick, Jim Heisler, Cathy Covach-Hale, Carole Gehrig, Edith Kriner, Kathie Frantz

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary **Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Mary Rowe	Jim Covert
Ushers	Faith Batz	Luke Hale
	Conner Roeder	Noah Hale
Cantor(s)	Audrey Christ	Lloyd Wertz
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Video Recorder	Kyle Nettles	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb I	Reed. & Marie Shav

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Lou Messina	Rob Baessler
Ushers	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer

Cantor(s) Sound Board Video Recorder Counters Don Nettles Mary Rowe Melissa Boyer Jim Ziegelbein Brenda Searle Gary Reager Linda Covert

Lou Messina & Janet Sattizahn

THE FLOWERS IN THE ATLAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of the birthday of Russell Crawshaw, by his wife, Pauline, and family.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTORS, Audrey Christ and Lloyd Wertz! Our online anthem features Audrey's friend, Jenna Hutchings!

THIS SUNDAY MARKS TWO YEARS since we made commitments of over \$350,000 for our four-year CAPITAL APPEAL to replace the HVAC system and the roof. With your generous giving, Jerusalem's building as a center for mission will continue to be a welcoming place where we gather for worship and learning, and are sent as disciples into the world for witness and service. As of last week, we have received \$245,319.23, or 70% of our goal at this, the midpoint of the appeal. Thank you not only for your faithful giving to our Capital Appeal, but also for your still increasing support to the ministries of Jerusalem and the Wider Church!

ALL CREATION SINGS, a supplement for our hymnal with additional hymns, many of which were written since our "red hymnal" was published, will soon be available. As we continue to treasure older hymns, global hymns, and newer hymns, we look forward to buying and using this supplement to enrich our worship. The cost is \$12.50 each, with orders due to us by June 1 (so that we can order at the introductory price, before the higher price goes into effect on June 15). We need about 180 hymnals for our pews. Please use the hymnal envelopes to make your gift and indicate if it is a memorial, in honor of someone, or to the glory of God.

CATHY COVACH-HALE is receiving chemotherapy once every three weeks (which hits her hard for several days), and needs both prayer and help with meals. She and her sons Noah and Luke live in town, and either meals or gift cards would make meals easier on the days when she is sick. Please see Linda Covert who is coordinating meals, if you would like to help.

ALTAR VASE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE on Sunday, May 23rd, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Please contact the church office if interested.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES will be due by Monday, May 10th, 2021. Articles can be sent via email to mail@jerusalemlutheran.com or dropped in the "Administrator Inbox" in the church office. Thanks!

ARE YOU FULLY VACCINATED YET? If so, please make sure you tell us. Forms are in the lobby to leave in the office, or you can email the office (mail@jerusalemlutheran.com) without a form. Not only does the Lutheran Church STRONGLY support vaccinations against the Coronavirus, but we also need to develop herd immunity in order to resume singing as a congregation.

Our ELCA is relying on the recommendations of Sing: The Center for Congregational Song (https://congregationalsong.org/covid-updates-congregational-song/) to help us determine on the basis of scientific findings when we will be able to sing together. Using their work, we are looking for at least a 75% vaccination rate before we lift our voices together in song. So the more, and the sooner we can get vaccinated, the sooner we can consider singing again.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold Baccalaureate by Zoom again this year, to reduce the risk of virus spread preventing any seniors from participating in graduation. The date selected was Sunday, May 23, at 4 PM.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EVENTS. Protect and enhance your marriage. Virtual and in-person events are scheduled. Scholarship funds are also available for those in need. Please visit www.GodLovesMarriage.org to sign up.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship

9:15am Confirmation Class/Sunday School

10:30am Worship

2:00pm Schuylkill Mission District Spring Assembly

TUESDAY 1:00pm COVID Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom)

6:30pm Social Ministry Meeting (Via Zoom)

7:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting (Via Zoom)

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, Pastor

610 987 9798(H) 570-933-5511 (C) pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

Audrey Christ, Music Director

musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, Director of Faith & Families Ministries

Rachel Kramer, Parish Administrator
Jill McCloy, Treasurer
Karen Ochenrider, Financial Secretary
Gina Cappel, Child Care Director
Mike Sausser, Sexton
Deborah Reed, President of Church Council

faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com
mail@jerusalemlutheran.com
treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com
karenochenrider@comcast.net
jccckids@jerusalemlutheran.com
linknomad@hotmail.com
dreed1955@comcast.net

COVID-19 Vaccine Form

Contact the Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services at 570-622-3103 for information regarding the COVID Vaccine. Some sites you can register for the vaccine are:

Site	Address	Contact Info.
Geisinger	100	Website:
St. Luke's	Paramount	https://www.slhn.org/covid-
Hospital	Blvd.,	19/protect-yourself/covid-19-
	Orwigsburg,	vaccine
	PA 17961	Phone: 1-866-StLukes(opt. 7)
Surgery	1544 Route 61	Phone: 570-385-7000
Center of	Suite 6192,	
Pottsville	Pottsville, PA	
	17901	
Lehigh	700 E.	Website:
Valley	Norwegian	https://www.LVHN.org/vaccines
Hospital	St., Pottsville,	Phone: 833-584-6283
Schuylkill	PA 17901	
Walmart	Fairlane	Call 1-800-753-8827. Clinics run
Clinics	Village Mall,	on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and
	Pottsville, PA	Fridays.

I/we_	(name(s))
have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.	



Orders are being accepted for Red Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. Cost per plant is \$4.25. All plants must be paid for through the Church. Please make checks out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Please fill out your order on this sheet. Orders and money due by Monday, May 10th. Thanks!

NAME	
IN MEMORY OF	
IN HONOR OF	
NUMBER OF Plants	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	(\$4.25 each)