

April 5, 2026

ONE SERVICE at 10:15 AM

Easter Sunday

Communion

Theme: The good news is alive in the world

Intro Paragraph for bulletin:

Death cannot stop the good news. It is alive, unbound, and wild in the world. Like the mustard seed, it grows without limit. Like water turned into wine, it surprises us with joy. Like loaves of bread, it expands to feed each hungry soul. And now, even in the face of death, it will not be buried or silenced. Just as the angels in Advent, the angel at the empty tomb delivers good news: "Do not be afraid." On the way to Galilee, Jesus greets the women with this same message, but adds: "Go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me." As we celebrate the good news of Easter, let us also go out seeking Christ in the faces of neighbors and strangers, and in the good works that are alive in this world.

+ GATHERING +

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC. Now the Green Blade Rises - setting by Lani Smith
David Lewis, trumpet

WELCOME and GREETING

PRELUDE Ode to Joy – arr. Edwards
Handbell Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship the God who brings us such good news in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

HYMN ELW 365 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

GREETING

Christ is risen!

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.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember...Friends, let us pray:

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look.

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.

So join me in this good news declaration:

Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 362 At the Lamb's High Feast we sing (vs. 1, 2, 8)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, all over the world...We listen for you. **In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-14

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious



from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

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**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The notes are simple quarter and eighth notes with slurs and ties.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has four measures, the second has four measures, the third has four measures, and the fourth has four measures. The notes include quarter, eighth, and dotted notes with slurs and ties.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father...

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION - continuous on the floor

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW 462 Now We Join in Celebration

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving Christ...With joy and hope we pray. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING** +

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,

and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN TFF 94 Low in the Grave He Lay

1 Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,
2 Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;
3 Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;

wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord.
vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord.
he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord.

Refrain

Up from the grave he a - rose, he a - rose, with a

might - y tri - umph o'er his foes; he a -
o'er his foes,

rose a vic - tor o - ver death's do - main, and he

lives for - ev - er, with his saints to reign. He a -

rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
He a - rose! He a - rose!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tempo di minuetto - Alexandre Guilmant

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Order your first **Heavenly Helper Hoagie** for this season by Sunday, April 5th. All Hoagies are \$10. Sign up outside of PB's office or contact Elaine Keller at elaineakeller@comcast.net or call 215-262-5366. Pick up your September hoagies on Thursday, April 16th between 5 & 6pm.

A Beautiful Mystery awaits in a quiet monastery, silence is broken....

The next book group gathering – join us as we explore *The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny. Saturday, April 25th at 9:30am at St. John's Lutheran Church, a light breakfast will be served. All are welcome!

Family Bathroom We are adding a family bathroom to meet the needs of some of our members. It's a big job. I believe the job itself has been blessed. The architect provided our plan pro bono. The supplier of most of the fixtures for the bathroom has discounted their products in exchange for some advertising opportunities. They even donated the sink! It's still an expensive project. We are in search of grants. Grants aren't easy. But, we're doing our best. If you know of one that might help us please let the office or a Church Council member know. In the meantime, if you feel it in your heart, we have a designated fund for donations. As you know, many hands make the lift easier! Just write "Family Bathroom" on an envelope. Thank You!

Sunday Morning Coffee Bar- Join us at the coffee bar at the back entrance for coffee, hot tea, breakfast treats and conversation starting at 8:30AM.

Volunteers are needed to cover the coffee bar each week - which means set up, bring treats to share and clean up. The sign up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office - please sign up to help!

A graveside service for **Louise Wetzel Clare** will be held on Friday May 15 at 12:00 noon at Flohr's Lutheran Church Cemetery, 590 Old Route 30, McKnightstown PA 17343. A time of fellowship and memory sharing will follow. Please keep Louise's son, Hank Clare, and family in your prayers in the weeks to come. Condolences may be sent to Hank Clare, P.O. Box 169, 1069 Church Road, Sumneytown, PA 18084

Fred and Judy Ockenlaender will celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary on April 16. Cards to shower them with congratulations can be sent to Fred and Judy Ockenlaender, 2830 Burton Road, Harleysville, PA 19438.

Easter flowers have been given in memory of...



Megan Hutt by Mom, Dad, Kristen, Tyler and Grace
Mr. and Mrs. William Hutt and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Schirk by Bill and Kathy Hutt
Frank and Florence Cressman by Kristen, Tyler and Grace Meitzler
Bob Evans by Barbara, Heather and Abby
Our grandparents by Kevin and Becky
All the Sanfillippo Angels who reside in God's embrace by Kevin, Becky, Erin, Alex, Keaton and Coulson
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Clemmer by Doug and Maryann Clemmer
Shirley Moyer by Maryann and Doug Clemmer

Jim Lysoby by Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby, Deanna and Ethan Cwalina
John & Irene Lysoby by Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby, Deanna and Ethan Cwalina
Myrtle & Charles Brinckman by Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby, Deanna and Ethan Cwalina
Matthew Cwalina by Linda, James, Jaime & Johnny Lysoby, Deanna and Ethan Cwalina
My husband, Edward F. Sweeney, III by his wife, Cathy
Grandparents Rose and Robert Fulton, Angela and Richard Hartzell by granddaughter Cathy
Wilbur and Hazel Hoot by the Yost family



Laverne and Judy Yost by JR, Jen, Caleb & Charlotte
Doris Keller by the Yost family
Our loved ones by Bev and Steve Fretz
Brian Allebach by Joyce Allebach
James Petrino by the Bolton family
Loved ones by Dean & Sue Heller
Our parents, Ada & Harry Gross and Bob & Helen Haldeman by Bob and Erika Haldeman
Richard Walp by Ruth Walp

Easter flowers have been given in honor of...

The faithful disciples of St. John's by Pastor Becky



Our kids, Erin, Alex, Keaton and Coulson by Kevin and Becky
Rosemarie and Richard Hartzell by daughter Cathy
Our grandparents by Caleb and Charlotte
Our Family by Bev and Steve Fretz
Oliver, Ezra and Noah by Joyce Allebach
Our kids and grandkids by Don and Andi Swavely
Our sons, Evan and Cooper by Brandon and Tricia Bolton
Pastor Becky from the St. John's musicians
Ben Modica from the St. John's musicians
Vikki Shelor from the St. John's musicians
Family by Dean & Sue Heller