

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Roger Gehman, Kim and Kevin Kieffer, Mike Haller, Margaret Bollinger, Sam Soto, Mike Leed, Ethel Sensenig, Dorothy Hutchinson, Walter Goshert Jr., Jane Goshert, Dave Haldeman, Ruth Hollinger, Deb Zerbe, Roy Latshaw, Shirley Sweigart, Amanda Benton, Jeff Moyer, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Nevin & Pat McQuate, Vivian Gehr, Jay Weaver, Barb Moyer, Betty Cordes and Judy Meckley.

United Zion Home Lititz: Ethel Leed

Somerset Rehab: Grace Wentz

Brethren Village, Lititz: Beverly Sweigart

Ephrata Manor: Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer, Joan Wentzel, and Ella Felker

Heatherwood, Honeybrook: Bob Weaver

Legends of Lititz Home: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Keystone Villa: Harriet & Jay Stoltzfus, Betty Firestine and Faye Pannebecker

Artman Lutheran, Ambler, Pa: Sally Wealand

Raymond and Janey Boley, Rachel Craven, Kelly Means, Desi Wagner, Dan Sweigart, Patty Hall, Tony Hatchkowski, Mick Smyer, Ruth Bieler, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bea Hassler, Rev. Judy McKee, Meredith Palmer, Althea Hillegas, Brenda Gabig, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Mary Morton, Megan Harting, Robyn Redcay, Letitia James, Corrina Bender, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, Donald Craven, Mike Fasnacht, Matt Thorn and Cynthia Peters.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Ray Vargo, Lavern Gehman, Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson, Sam Heiser, Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain and Clara Ingram.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “Waymaker”

-Sinach
Ahava

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #377** *“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!”*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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

P: 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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

***GREETING**

P: 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.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **☐** Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **☐** For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

1 JOHN 4:7-21

Lay Reader (Skip Hutchinson): A reading from John 1 the 4th chapter. *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.*

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 22:25-31



All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.

(Ps. 22:27)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

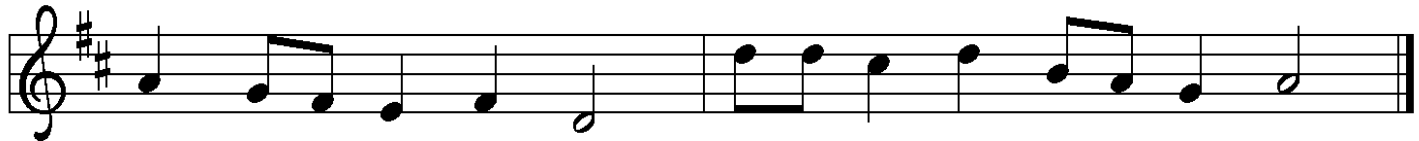
CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.



☐

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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:] 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON: *“Food for the Vine”*

-Pastor Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Good, Good Father”*

-Pat Barrett and Anthony Brown

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

C: 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 †

***P:** 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.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN #181:**

“Let the Vineyards...”

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father,

C: **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER †

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.

***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

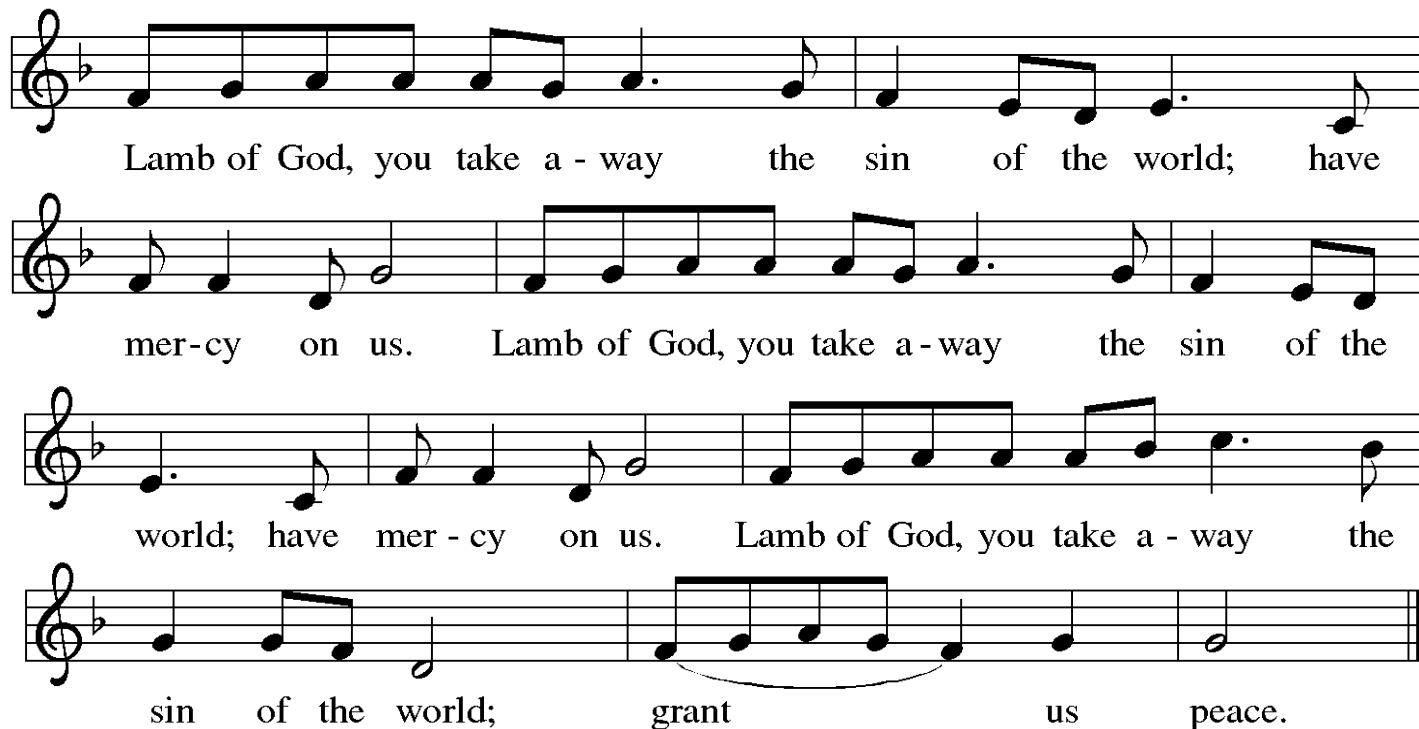
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



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
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

All Baptized Christians Are Invited To Receive Holy Communion at the Communion Rail. We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them. Pick Up an Empty Cup. A Grape Juice Option and Gluten Free Communion Wafers Provided. If You Cannot Come To the Chancel, Communion Will Be Taken To You. Please Notify An Usher. Those in the Parking Lot Partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn # 476: *"Thee We Adore, O Savior"*

Hymn # 488: *"Soul Adorn Yourself in Gladness"*

Hymn # 616: *"Jesus Remember Me"*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210: "Blessed Be God"**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN: #856 "How Great Thou Art"**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Skip Hutchinson

Communion Assistant: Tess Freeman

Psalmist: Erin Biles

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Randy Brubaker, Nancy Eberly, Shawn Jeffers, and Mike Haller.

Weekly Receipts Report as of 04/25/2024	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	58/4
Online Attendance	75
General Receipts (Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday)	\$11,322.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God by Kimberley and Pastor Tim Craven in memory of our parents.

DATE CHANGES for Choir practices

Bell Choir Practice Schedule

May 1 and 8 at 6:00 pm

Choir Practice Schedule

May 1 and 8 at 7:00 pm

GREAT 8 APPEAL OFFERING

February 18 to May 26

If you are unable to pick-up the Great 8 Appeal envelopes. Please call and we will mail them to you. Or just designate Great 8 Appeal and your name or envelope number on an envelope with your choice to support.