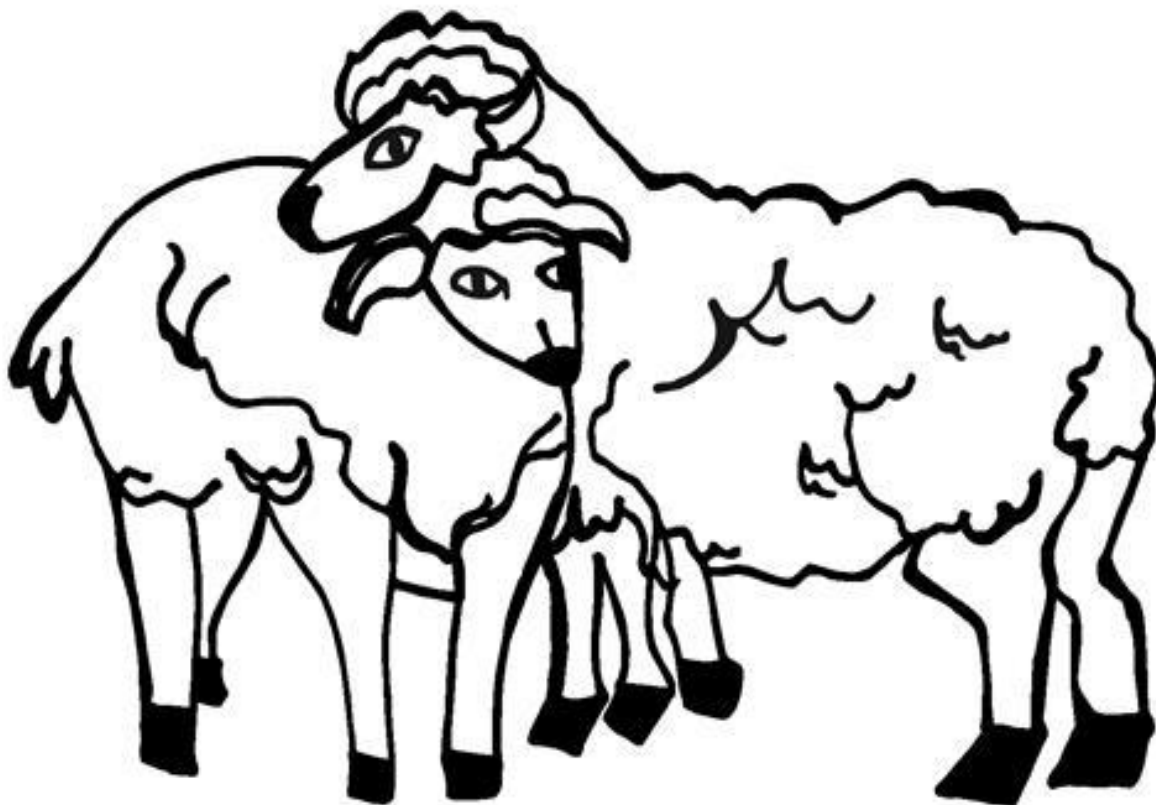


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 21, 2024



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

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

Home: (717) 738-3838

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Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

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Director of Christian Education

Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Roger Gehman, Kim and Kevin Kieffer, Rodger Sweigart, Mike Haller, Margaret Bollinger, Tess Freeman, 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 Hospital: Mary Weidman

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, Theda Raffauf, 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: “*Cantilene*”

-Hall Macklin

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #502** “*The King of Love My Shepherd is*”

***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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

1 JOHN 3:16-25

Lay Reader (Melanie Brubaker): A reading from John 1 the 3rd chapter. *Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in

them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 23



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they | comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

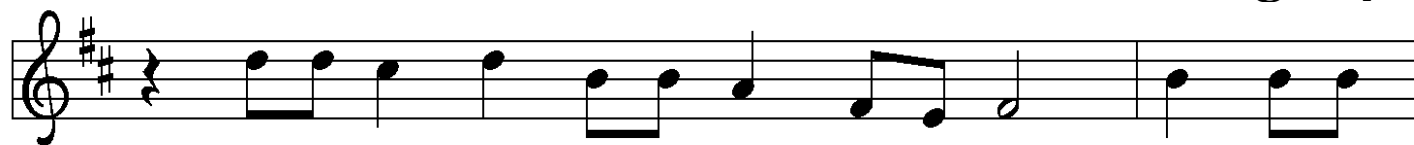
⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of
my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. 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 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

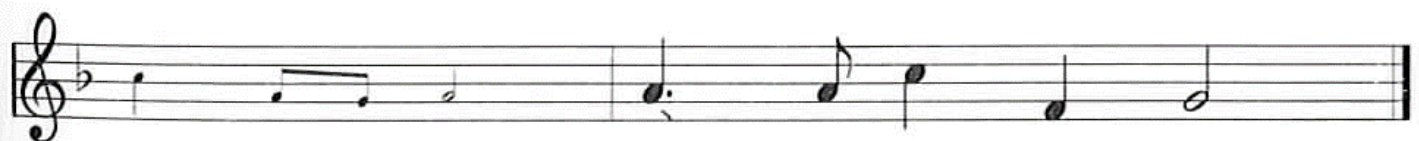


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “*He Maketh Me To Lie Down*”

-Pastor Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: “*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*”

-American Melody & Isaac Watts

***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: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. 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 al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

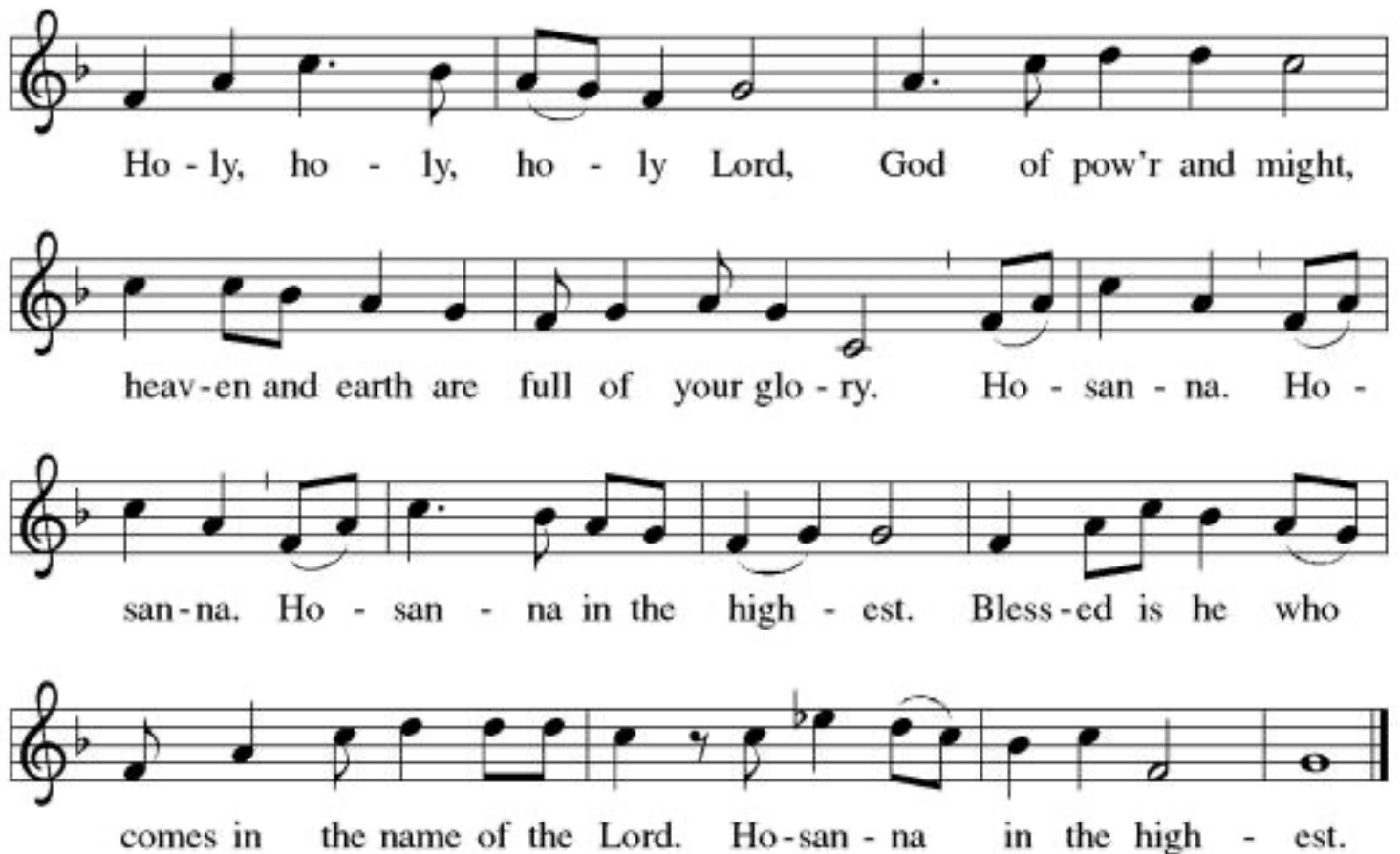


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE 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

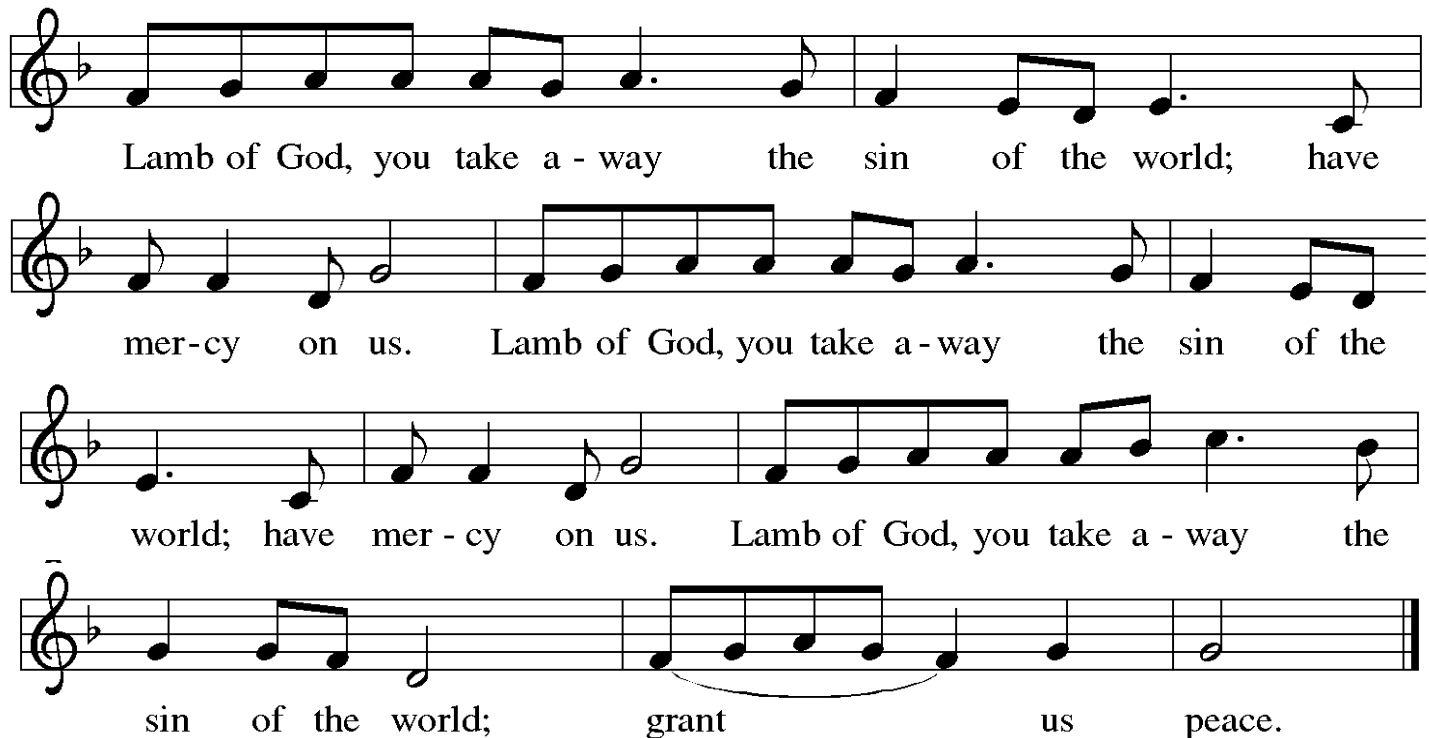
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: 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 #460: *“Now In Silence”* Sing x2

Hymn #471: *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

Hymn #494: *“For The Bread Which You Have Broken”*

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: #881** *“Let All Things Now Living”*

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Song of Rejoicing”*

-John Rasley

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Melanie Brubaker

Communion Assistant: Kimberley Craven

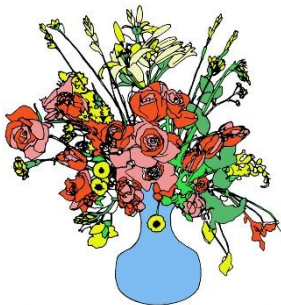
Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: Erin Biles

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Linda Weaver, Lowell Yost, Jill Showalter and Troy Adair.

Weekly Receipts Report as of 04/18/2024	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	66/5
Online Attendance	71
General Receipts (Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday)	\$2,192.00



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins
are dedicated to the Glory of God by
Sam and Anita Soto
in memory of Etta Holsinger.

**Please use our QR code to
donate via PayPal.**



**Bell Choir Practice Schedule
May 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 6:00**

**Choir Practice Schedule
May 1, 8 & 22 at 7:00**

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.



Summer will be here before you know it. Here are some events happening at Adamstown Library.

If you would like the whole schedule there is a copy on the table in the Narthex. Copies can be made upon request.

Saturday, June 1 9-11 AM. Opening Day Drive-Thru Party at the Denver Park.

Safely stay in your car while picking up your Summer Packet, snacks, gifts, Refreshing Mountain raffle prizes, Fire Truck, Police Car, and SOOOO much more. 801 Main St., Denver. First 200 kids get Boehringer's Ice Cream Cone Coupon. *For Families.*

Monday, June 3 at 10 AM. Pet Rock Painting at the Adamstown Grove. You are going to need a friend to take along on all your adventures this Summer! Join us as we create a pocket size pal. Lancaster County Dept. of Parks & Rec. *For all ages.*

Tuesdays, June 4 & 11, July 2 & 16 at 10 AM. Nature Shows at Refreshing Mountain. Come and hear all about native and exotic creatures from around the world. 455 Camp Rd. Stevens, PA 17578. Park in Lot B and meet at Pavilion C. *For all ages.*

Wednesday, June 5 at 10 AM. Electric Bike Demo at the Adamstown Grove. Officer Michelle L. Cook will demonstrate the latest addition to the Ephrata Police Department. *For all ages.* In place of Budding Bookworms Storytime.

Friday, June 7 at 10 AM. Creepy Crawly Party at Schoeneck Park, W. Cocalico Twp. Face your fears and learn about all things scaly and slimy. In this program we will read the book *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs* by Anthony Fredericks and study bugs up close and personal. Lancaster County Dept. of Parks & Rec. *For all ages.*

Monday, June 10 at 10 AM. Adventure Movie Trivia at the Adamstown Grove. How well do you know Disney Adventure Movies? Compete with other families. *For all ages.*

Tuesday, June 11 Drop-In 3-5 PM. STEAM at the Library. Activities include Bridge Building (Build a Lego/Knex bridge & car, and design a Bridge with different materials). **No STEAM in July & August.**

Wednesday June 12 at 1:30 PM. Mark DeRose Music & Art Show at the Adamstown Grove. He encourages young listeners to embrace & enjoy life to its fullest, be creative, and most importantly, confidently be themselves. *For all ages.*