

Were not our hearts  
burning  
within us?

LUKE 24:32



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter ✠ April 19, 2026

\*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.

Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

Liturgy and hymns are in the green hymnal unless indicated.

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Thine Is the Glory" by George Frideric Handel,  
arranged by Marvin Gaspard and Mark Hayes

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.  
Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but  
we have served our own interests at the expense of our  
neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We  
say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to  
seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you,  
our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now  
declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers us in the  
righteousness of Christ and forgives our sin in Jesus' name. May the  
Spirit give us strength to live for others, and bless us with the gift of  
peace. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Welcome, Happy Morning" P. 153

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Spoken in unison

**O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in  
the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we  
may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

Insert

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:14a, 36-41

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the  
crowd]: <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty

that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you  
crucified." <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and  
said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we  
do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in  
the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you  
will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for  
your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord  
our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments  
and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt  
generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and  
that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** 116:1-4, 12-19

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to  
my supplication,

<sup>2</sup> **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon  
me; I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray  
you, save my life."**

<sup>12</sup> How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for  
me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of  
the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup> O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your  
handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon  
the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O  
Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to  
each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You  
know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from  
your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with  
the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or  
blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but

was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL** Luke 24:13-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he

vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S & CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE**, Pastor Barry Spatz

**HYMN** "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia" P. 131

**\*PRAYERS** Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**\*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.***

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Offertory in G" by G. F. Handel, arranged by Lani Smith

**\*DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SENDING HYMN** "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" P. 363

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Postlude** "The Chardon Jig" by John S. Dixon

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**Church e-mail:** [friedenslutheran4@gmail.com](mailto:friedenslutheran4@gmail.com)

**Designated Pastor:** Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Road,  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

**Council President:** Ed Tietsworth, (570) 292-1061

**Worship time** – 10:30 AM

### Calendar

April 19, Pastor Barry Spatz.

April 26, Deb Barry.

May 3, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 10, Damaris Merwine.

May 17, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 24, Pastor Linda Bonfilio.

### Announcements

4/25/2026 – WLECA – Spring Cluster, Schuylkill Haven.

4/26/2026 – Schuylkill Mission District Spring Assembly,  
3:00 PM, Friedens.

4/28/2026 – Making boxes for Mr. Sticky Sale, 6 PM.

4/29/2026 – Mr. Sticky, 6 AM – 4 PM. Prices – Single, \$5.00, 1/2  
Doz, \$26.00 and Full Doz, \$50.00 Orders due 4/19. Sign up sheets in  
the Sunday School room to help or order Sticky Buns.

5/6/2026 – Worship & Music, 5 PM.

5/11/2026 – Ascension Day Service, 7:00 PM. The service will be  
hosted at Valley View Church of God. Pastor Mark Rothermel will  
give the message.

5/13/2026 – Council Meeting, 6 PM.

5/27/2026 – Baccalaureate services will be held at Trinity Lutheran at  
7:00 PM. Pastor Suzanne Elliott will provide the message.

6/1/2026 – Scholarship applications are due.

### Prayers

David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Saralynn Grantz; Linda, Lee & Jared  
Kiefer.

Sympathy for the family and friends of Misty Rice.

**Today's Leaders** – Message, Pastor Barry Spatz Organist,  
Harold Morgan Lector, Damaris Merwine Counters, Mike & Sue  
Deiter Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Christy Leiter,  
Damaris Merwine, Ed Tietsworth Greeters, Julie & Jean Klingler.

**Flowers** – No sponsors.

**Bulletin** – In memory of Tom, by Ruth.

<b>Attendance:</b> 31 (4/12/2026) Offering – Current	\$1,151.00
Other	\$170.00
Total	\$1,321.00

**Volunteers** 4/26/2026 – Service, Deb Barry Lector, Ann Miller  
Counters, Christy Leiter & Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Rick  
Herring Ushers, Scott Allvord, Michael Allvord, Mike Deiter  
Greeters, Cindy & Rick Herring and Joan Smith.

### Mother Daughter Banquet

WELCA Mother Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 AM, with brunch and entertainment (Amanda Ludwig).  
Please reach out to Christy Leiter and Ann Miller for tickets.

### Summer Bible School

Friedens's Bible School will be held from June 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, each  
evening. The Bible School program will be on Sunday, June 21, 2026.

# The Way of Resurrection

**I**n some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.