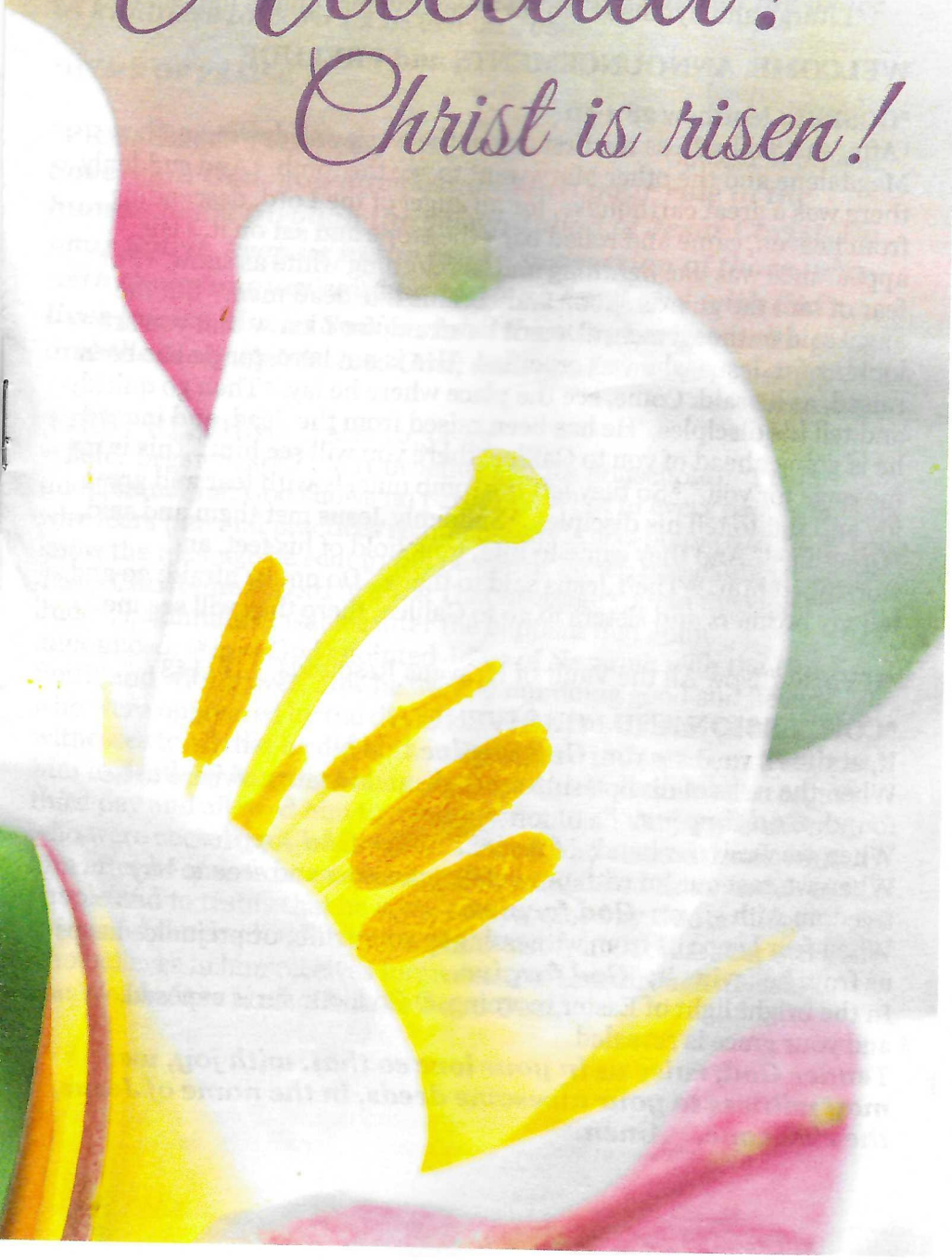


Alleluia!
Christ is risen!



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Resurrection of Our Lord ✠ April 1, 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, ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRELUDE

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 28:1-10

¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

***HYMN** "Now All the Vault of Heavens Resounds" P. 143

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

If, at times, we deny you, **God forgive.**

When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found: **God forgive.**

When we wash our hands of responsibility: **God forgive.**

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver: **God forgive.**

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it: **God forgive.**

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed.

Tender God, raise us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your awesome deeds, in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, **out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace we have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Insert

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Spoken in unison.

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 31:9-16

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

CHILDREN'S & CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Spatz.

HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

P. 90

*** 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; by the power of the Holy

Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

***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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Spoken)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift 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.**

***PREFACE**

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

(Spoken)
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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

***BLESSING**

***SENDING HYMN** "The Strife is O'er." P. 135

***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude

Website: [HTTPS://www.thefriedenslutheran.com](https://www.thefriedenslutheran.com)

Church e-mail: 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

Today, Pastor Barry Spatz, Easter Sunday.

April 12, Mary Ellen Klebe.

April 19, Pastor Barry Spatz.

April 26, Deb Barry.

Announcements

4/7/2026 – HVACF (Craft Faire) 6:30 PM.

4/8/2026 – Council Mtg., 6:00 PM.

4/10 and 4/11/2026 – Shop & Drop Raffle.

4/13/2026 – WELCA Health Kits, 6:30 PM.

4/29/2026 – Mr. Sticky, 6 AM – 4 PM.

Prayer Corner

Darlene Gibson; Rick Herring; Kim Schwartz; Bill Howerter; David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Misty Rice; Rosanne Burkey; Saralynn Grantz Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer.

Sympathy for the family and friends of Eric Scheib; Palmer Geist; Greg Readinger.

Today's Leaders - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion Lector, Damaris Merwine Lay Assistant, Ron Radel Counters, Ann Miller, Vicki Troutman Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Mike Deiter, Dave Henninger, Rodney Troutman Greeters, Peggy Hand & Damaris Merwine.

Palms for 3/29/2026 – In memory of Charlie Klinger and Jack, Kathryn, Peter Otto.

Bulletin & Flowers – In honor of Ann Miller's birthday and in memory of Pastor Kistler & his wife Dolores by Ruth.

Attendance: (3/29/26) 73	Offering – Current	\$1,863.00
	Other	\$50.00
	Total	\$1,913.00

Volunteers 4/12/2026 – Service, Mary Ellen Klebe Organist, Harold Morgan Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller Greeters, Jess & Dave Henninger.

Strongly Sung Alleluias

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God's love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of "fear and great joy" (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they "took hold of his feet, and worshiped him" (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter "alleluia" was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation" (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God's liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!