



May they be
one,
as we are
one

JOHN 17:11

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seventh Sunday of Easter ✠ May 17, 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 "Sing a New Song" by Edward Broughton

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, ***you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ who rules the world and is head of the church, holy body. Amen.***

Hear the good news of the gospel: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" vs. 1-4 P. 250

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** Spoken in unison.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Praise to the Father"

Praise to the Father for his loving kindness, tenderly caring for his erring children; Praise him, all angels; praise him in Heaven; Praise to the Father!

FIRST READING Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Psalm: 68:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

²***As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.***

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴***Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!***

⁵In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶***you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.***

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸***the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.***

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

³³ You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

***GOSPEL** John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to

them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "The Church's One Foundation" P. 369

***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 "Soliloquy" by Hall M. Macklin

***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** "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine"

Blue Book P. 780

***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude "Rise Up and Serve the Lord" by William Walter, arranged by Patricia Lou Harris

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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

Attendance: 36 (5/10/26) Offering:

May 10, 2026 – Current	\$1,166.00
Other	\$105.00
Total	\$1,271.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Calendar

Today, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 24, Pastor Linda Bonfilio.

May 31, James Kimmel.

June 7, Carole Hepler.

June 14, Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion.

June 21, Pastor Barry Spatz.

June 28, Karen Koppenhaver.

Announcements

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

5/29/2026 – Tri-Valley High School Graduation. May 29th at 7:00 PM. Athletic Field/Gymnasium. Congratulations to your graduates.

5/31/2026 – Last day of Sunday School. See you in the fall.

5/31/2026 – Recognition of 2026 Graduates at the 10:30 AM service.

6/1/2026 – Scholarship applications are due.

6/2/2026 – Craft Faire Meeting, 6:30 PM.

6/3/2026 – Worship & Music, 5:30 PM.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Saralinn Grantz; Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer; Robert Lettick; Elaine Carter; Deb Barry; Ron Radel; Gary Snyder; Katelyn Steppy, Jack Wehry; Josh & Dani Keiffer and unborn child; Drew Hikes.

Today's Leaders - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Organist, Harold Morgan Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller Greeters, Jane & Ed Tietsworth.

Flowers – In memory of Forrest by Orpha and Family.

Bulletin – No sponsors.

Volunteers 5/24/2026 – Service, Pastor Linda Bonfilio Lector, Ann Miller Counters, Mike & Sue Deiter Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers, Christy Leiter, Mike Deiter, Ed Tietsworth Greeters, Cindy & Larry Klinger.

Summer Bible School

Friedens's Bible School will be held from June 15th – 19th, 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Vacation Bible is for children **3 years old (potty trained) to those who have completed 6th grade.** The Bible School program will be on Sunday, June 21, 2026, 10:30 AM. Please join our youth as they showcase what they have learned during the week.

Pentecost Sunday

Don't forget to wear red on May 24th for Pentecost.

A Focus on Relationship

The prayers of Jesus in today's reading come at the conclusion of what is called the "Farewell Discourse" in John's gospel, which takes place prior to Jesus' arrest in the garden. In this discourse Jesus repeatedly emphasizes themes of relationship, mutual love, and service as he teaches, gives final instructions, and prays for the disciples.

In John, more than in the other three gospels, *relationship* is the ultimate focus of the life of faith. Jesus' mission on earth is to bring people into knowledge of and relationship with God the Father. Jesus exemplifies perfect relationship with the Father and wants all people to know this same intimacy with God. He also prays that his disciples might live in such a loving and mutual relationship with one another. Moreover, he prays that we might be one, so that our unity reflects the unity of the Father and the Son.

Our relationship with God is strengthened and refreshed in faith communities that worship together, attend to each other's needs, and serve others and creation in acts of love and compassion. In the Bantu languages and philosophy of Africa, *ubuntu* refers to the moral conviction that "I am because you are," or "I am because we are." Ubuntu recognizes that our well-being and our futures are bound up in the well-being and the future of others.

Christianity is a religion of relationship, not of self-efficacy. In an increasingly individualistic and fragmented world, our faith in Christ demonstrates a bold witness to the power and beauty of community. How might Jesus be leading us and the church in this subversive work? How might mutual love and interdependence be signs of our faith, forging a path of healing for our broken world?