

Bendersville Lutheran Parish

St. James
Wenksville
8:25 am

Christ
Aspers
9:45 am

Bethlehem
Bendersville
11:00 am

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

• April 7, 2024 •



Parish Office:

126 Church St. • P.O. Box 449
Bendersville, PA 17306-0449
Office Phone: (717) 677-9880
Office email:

3churches@bendersvillelutheranparish.com

The Rev. Susan E. Scott:

Phone: (717) 497-1013

Email:

pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com

www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

C: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

P: By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
 you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
 freeing us to live as Easter people.
 We rejoice with glad hearts,
 giving all honor and praise to you,
 through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

*GATHERING HYMN: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" ELW 384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

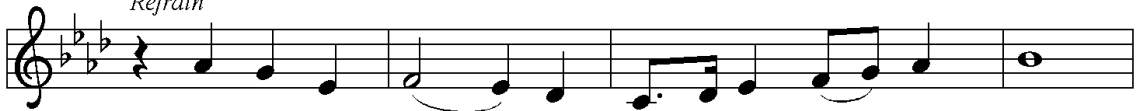
*GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

FIRST READING:

Acts 4:32-35

The First Reading is from Acts, the fourth chapter.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles

gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 133

L: How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

**C: It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING:

1 John 1:1–2:2

The Second Reading is from First John, beginning with the first chapter.

^{1:1}We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses

us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

***GOSPEL:**

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twentieth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the

disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Susan E. Scott

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” LBW 132

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 OF THE CHURCH

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.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain, especially those on our prayer list and those we silently name who are near to our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you, especially Bryan Burns, Donald Patterson, and Larry Wolfe, and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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.**

PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” **LBW 133**

(Verses 1 & 5)



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long-er can ap - pall me;
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death but the gate of life im - mor - tal;



Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ re - call me.
this shall calm my trem-bling breath when I pass its gloom-y por - tal.



Bright-er scenes will then com-mence; this shall be my con - fi-dence.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi-dence!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

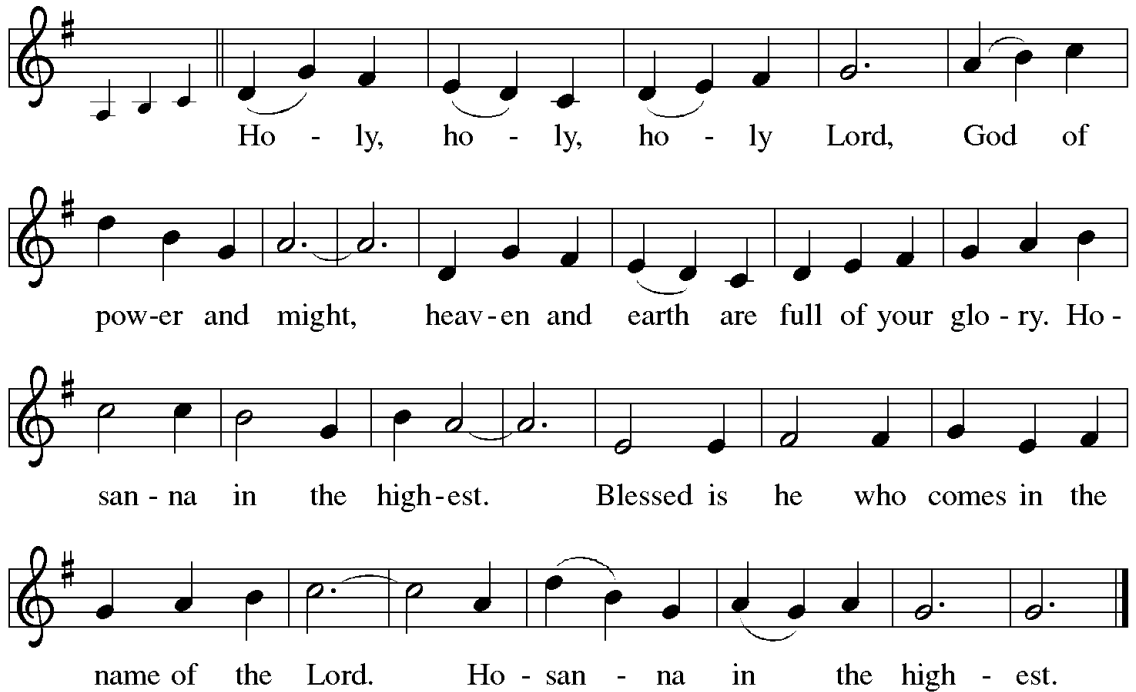
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *(sung by the pastor)*

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: O God most mighty ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. [**Amen.**]

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [**Amen.**]

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [**Amen.**]

P: O God, you are Breath ... life in you, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray ...

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to encounter Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to the Table. As directed, please come forward. The elements will be given by Pastor Susan or the Communion Assistant. If you would like a verbal blessing only, please let the Pastor know. Holy Communion may also be received at your seat. Just inform the Pastor or usher. The elements will be partaken at the Pastor's or Communion Assistant's direction:

***The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.***

COMMUNION HYMN: "O Living Bread from Heaven"

LBW 197



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear.



Oh, won - drous food of bless - ing, oh, cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
And when you call my spir - it to leave this world be - low,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, with prais - es o - ver - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
I en - ter, through your mer - it, where joys un - min - gled flow.

*POST-COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: “On Our Way Rejoicing”**

LBW 260

***DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***POSTLUDE**

• APRIL 2024 •

SUN. Apr. 7	MON. Apr. 8	TUES. Apr. 9	WED. Apr. 10	THURS. Apr. 11	FRI. Apr. 12	SAT. Apr. 13
<p>8:25 am: St. James</p> <p>9:45 am: Christ</p> <p>11:00 am: Bethlehem</p>	<p>1:00 to 3:00 pm: New Hope Ministries (Bethlehem)</p> <p>7:00 pm: Council Meeting (Bethlehem)</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Council Meeting (Christ)</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Layna Lang</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)</p> <p>Judges 4 & 5: 'Deborah & Jael'</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Planning Committee Meeting (Parsonage)</p> <p>"Pastor Bob's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration"</p>		
SUN. Apr. 14	MON. Apr. 15	TUES. Apr. 16	WED. Apr. 17	THURS. Apr. 18	FRI. Apr. 19	SAT. Apr. 20
<p>8:25 am: St. James</p> <p>9:45 am: Christ</p> <p>11:00 am: Bethlehem</p>	<p><i>Birthday:</i> Felipe Caloca</p> <p>Gary Bretzman</p> <p>Dan Turner</p> <p><i>Anniversary:</i> Jerry & Barbara Mahoney</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Worship & Music Committee Meeting (Bethlehem)</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Michael Wolfe</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)</p> <p>John 4: 'The Woman at the Well'</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> John Ascencio</p> <p>Brayden Mickley</p> <p>Beverly Slaybaugh</p>			

• NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS •

3churches@bendersvillelutheranparish.com

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector

J Harold Stoner
C Cindy Baugher
B Bruce Schachle

Greeters/Ushers

—
—
Loren & Ginger Mortorff

Altar Guild

Harold & Kathy Stoner
Deb & Dave Copenhaver
Kathy Singley

ALTAR FLOWERS:



St. James, Christ & Bethlehem

To the Glory of God



OFFICE HOURS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Pastor Susan has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm at the Parsonage. You are welcome to stop by the Parsonage to visit. Her official day off is Friday, but she is available for pastoral emergencies.

For all your pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Susan Scott by phone/text at 717-497-1013 or email pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com.

ON-LINE SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship is livestreamed on YouTube at 11 AM on our Bendersville Lutheran Parish channel (this info can also be found on our website – www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com).

* SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING MEETING *

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, at 7 p.m. at the Parsonage

Event: 50th Anniversary of Ordination for Pastor Bob

If you would like to help plan the worship service and luncheon for the 50th Anniversary of Ordination for Pastor Bob, please contact Pastor Susan
We will meet on Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at the parsonage.



◆ BIBLE STUDY ◆

We will gather for Bible Study on **Wednesday, April 10**, with the continuation of “Women of the Bible”.

We meet at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem.

The weekly schedule is as follows:

April 10: *Deborah and Jael* – Judges 4 and 5

April 17: *The Woman at the Well* – John 4

April 24: *Mary and Martha* – Matthew 26:6-13,
Mark 14:3-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8,
John 11, Luke 10:38-42

May 1: *Priscilla, Phoebe, Lydia and Rhoda* – Romans 16,
Acts 12, 16 and 18

May 8: *Mary of Magdala* – Luke 8, Matthew 27 and 28,
Mark 15 and 16, Luke 24, John 19 and 20

– All Are Invited to Join Us! –

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

- **THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024** •
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Meeting Room
25 Franklin Street • Biglerville, PA 17307

Please sign up using the Red Cross Blood Donor app or call 1-800-733-2767.



Prayer List - Parish Members

Dixie Atha c
Eric Black j
Dot Bosak b
Ruth Bretzman b
Tony Bretzman b
Mary Chronister b
Adam Clapsadl j

Wahnetta Harvey c
Harold Heller j
Linda Heller j
James Lang b
Betty McCauslin j
Loren Mortorff b
Carol Rex j

Lois Rinehart b
Mike Rinehart b
Alan Showers j
Bill Slaybaugh j
Steve Tuckey j
Dan Turner c
Mike Wolfe c

Friends of the Parish

Connie Adams
Douglas Barbour
Mary 'Sis' Becker
Adam Black
Barry Black
Gary Black
Jeff Black
Bev Bretzman
Nathan Bretzman
Valerie Bushey

June Cline
Nicole Cline
Dick Cook
Carl Corl
Jeanne Cuttitta
Peter Cuttitta
Helen Daniels
Bonnie DeHaven
Luann Fix
Galen Hartz

Celine Horner
Kinley
Karen Lowson
Emily Maiolo
Bradley Metz
Diane Myers
Zach Pelc
Brian Reed
Ginny Rinehart

With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of those who have died in the faith and who are now at rest with their eternal Father (our saints who have gone before us).

Bryan Burns, Donald Patterson, and Larry Wolfe