April 7th 2024 9:30am Worship Service Second Sunday of Easter



CEDAR CHURCH

A Union Church since 1855 3419 Broadway Allentown, PA 18104 610-395-6332

Email: cedarchurch@ptd.net www.cedarunionchurch.com

Our Mission

Cedar Church extends a hand of welcome to all of God's children seeking a place of worship among persons dedicated to the love of Christ and his teachings.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Before The Service

A selection of traditional & contemporary sacred music arrangements played on the piano.

Prelude If Thou Arte Near J.S. Bach, arr. L.N. Parker

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

*Greeting

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

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn



*Call to Worship

P: We have seen, and we have heard:

C: Christ is risen!

P: The cross and tomb are empty.

C: Christ is risen!

P: The disciples saw his hands.

C: Christ is risen!

P: They saw his side.

C: Christ is risen!

P: Love has come to life.

C: We come to worship the risen Christ who is risen indeed!

*Opening Prayer

LA: Let us pray:

God of the resurrection, we gather this morning as a community of believers.

C: We come with joy to greet one another and to tell again and again the amazing news:

Christ is risen!

Love is victorious over death!

You have given us new life

in the name of your Son!

May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming be a testimony to the power of your love

to make us a new creation as a community of faith.

We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

*Invitation to Confession

P: In Christ's resurrection, we are made whole. That is the good news of the Easter season. The love of Christ heals us where we are broken, and returns us to God when we stray. As we confess our uncertainties and our brokenness, we affirm what Christ offers us.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

P: When we need proof of you in the world,

C: you offer your breath.

LA: When we hold too tight to the past,

C: you offer your grace.

P: When we cling to old hurts,

C: you offer your love.

LA: When we use our words and actions to wound others,

C: you offer your healing.

P: When we fail to forgive those who hold our past against us,

C: you offer your hope.

LA: When we hurt others, with or without intention,

C: you offer your peace.

P: When we separate ourselves from you,

C: you offer your forgiveness, redeeming Christ, you bring us back to you. You open closed hearts and heal injured souls. It is through your love and forgiveness that we find healing and freedom. Amen.

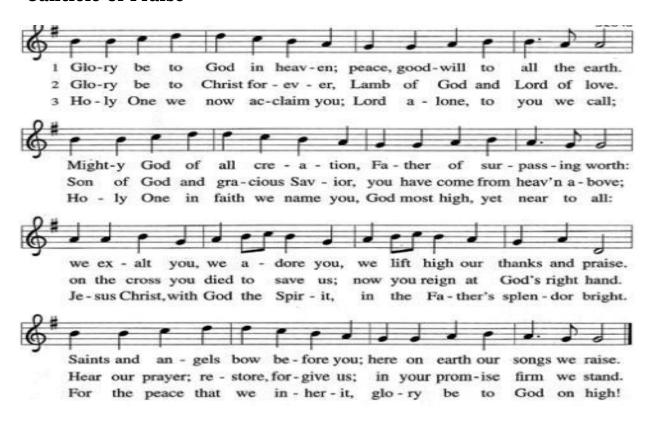
Silence is kept for reflection.

*Assurance of Pardon

P: It is through the risen Christ that we are given redemption. It is through the risen Christ that we are made whole. It is through the risen Christ that we are forgiven. As the people of God, live healed and live forgiven!

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise



(Please be seated)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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.

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.

Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Scriptures (Scripture Verses are NSRV unless otherwise stated) **The Reading from Acts 4:32-35**

The Holy Spirit changes everyone and everything. If there is any doubt about the power of the Spirit, just take a look at Peter. When Jesus was captured, Peter cowered in fear that he might be identified as a man who loved Jesus. Now this same disciple is preaching, healing, and pointing his finger in the face of Jewish officials who have captured him and John. With a boldness that is not his own, he blames them for the death of Jesus and does not cower at their show of violence.

³² During those days, the entire community of believers was deeply united in heart and soul to such an extent that they stopped claiming private ownership of their possessions. Instead, they held everything in common. ³³ The apostles with great power gave their eyewitness reports of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Everyone was surrounded by an extraordinary grace. ³⁴ Not a single person in the community was in need because those who had been affluent sold their houses or lands and brought the proceeds ³⁵ to the emissaries of the Lord. They then distributed the funds to individuals according to their needs.

The Reading from Psalms

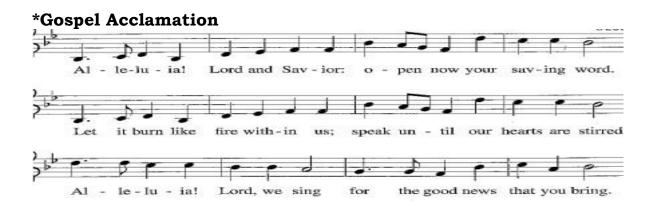
Psalm 133

Psalm 133 celebrates the joy when all people can live together in unity. It describes the gifts that come from people being together. Perhaps the Early Christians in **Acts 4:32–35** were remembering this Psalm as they sat together.

- ¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!
- ²It 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.
- ³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

The Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.



P: Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark. 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. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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: This is the good news.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day

P: Dear God, as we hear your word, may we be transformed into a true community of believers, ready to go into the world to testify that Christ is alive and active in our lives today.

C: Amen.

Sermon

"Inhaling is the act of taking it all in. It's making room for inspiration. . . . To exhale is to say: I've done the work I can do.

I've taken in what I can take in. Now is the time to release. Let it go."

Morgan Harper Nichols, **Peace Is a Practice**



*The Apostle's Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and 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 and 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.

(Please be seated)

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.

(Silence is kept)

LA: 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.

LA: 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.

LA: 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, 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. 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.

Offertory Invitation

P: All that we have belongs to God. As we celebrate our unity as a community of faith and focus our hearts on the risen Christ, we joyfully share our gifts. Through the grace of God and the bounty of this church, we can share our gifts with others so that all may have what they need to live. We thank God for the opportunity to truly be in fellowship with one another and with the world through our offerings today. Please share abundantly.

Offertory Anthem: TBA

*Doxology (Sung)

C: 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.

*Prayer of Dedication

P: Let us pray.

C: Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion *The Invitation

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

*The Eucharistic Prayer

LA: May the Risen Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

LA: Lift your hearts to God, Resurrection People.

C: We lift our glad hearts to the One who gives us new life.

LA: Children of God, sing with joy on this day of resurrection.

C: Songs of joy flow from our very being on this day.

LA: It is truly right and good to glorify you, at all times and in all places, O God. Through your living word you created all things and pronounced them good. You made human beings in your own image, persons capable of entering into relationships both with you and with each other.

You have called us as sisters and brothers to be a great family. So today we join with all your people on earth praising your name in unending song, singing together:

*Seraphic Hymn (Sung)

Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and Earth are full,
are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

P: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body."

Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe:

- C: Christ went to the cross, stretching out his hands to embrace death; Christ was brought out of the grave, reaching out his hands to embrace your love; Christ will come, offering us his hands so we might go home with him.
- P: O holy God, Creator of all people and worlds, send now upon this bread and cup Your life-giving Spirit. May this outpouring of the promised Spirit transfigure this thanksgiving meal that this bread and this cup may become for us the body and blood of Christ.

As we partake of this holy meal, fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may be one body and one spirit in Christ. All glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

*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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Lamb of God

C: O Lamb of God you bear the sins of all the world away you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God you bear the sins of all the world away you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God you bear the sins of all the world away eternal peace with God you made: have mercy now, we pray.

(Please be seated.)

Call to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come! Taste and see.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Communion will be by intinction.

Communion will be served to the choir first, then to those in the balcony. The usher will indicate when it's time for your row to move forward to receive communion,

When you do come forward, please proceed via the center aisle and exit by the side aisles. You will get a wafer from the pastor. There are also gluten-free wafers available. The pastor's chalice contains wine.

In the assistant's chalice, there is grape juice.

*Post Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of Jesus the Christ strengthen and preserve you each one unto everlasting life.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LA: 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.

* Sending Hymn: When Thomas Heard from Jesus

To the tune of: "The Church's One Foundation"

- When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"
 He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.
 He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;
 He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.
- 2. When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say, "We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?" He wanted understanding of what he could not see. Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

- 3. When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry, Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die." He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread; Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.
- 4. What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!

 Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.

 When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;

 He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.
- 5. That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;
 At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.
 O Lord, may we like Thomas keep growing day by day;
 Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 "The Church's One Foundation" Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

We carry the light of Christ into the world.

* Blessing

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.

*Sung Benediction

C: God be with you till we meet again. By his counsels' guide uphold you, Keep love's banner floating o'er you, God be with you till we meet again.

*Dismissal:

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude *My Heart Rejoices* Edward Broughton

The Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman (cell: 610-762-9391)

Music Director: David Beck Sexton: Don Hinderliter

Church Secretary: Jenny Simmons (Office Hrs. Tue-Wed-Thu 8am-4pm)

Videographer & Claxton: Phil Horlacher Worship Lay Assistant: Ellen Sherer Altar Guild: Sandra Diacogiannia

Usher: June Knecht

2024 Cedar Advisory Board (CAB)

President: Chris Ellis, Vice President: Tammy Boyer, Treasurer: Phil Horlacher, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Phillips, Secretary: Jeannine Leonard, Assistant Secretary: Janine Barnaby, Members: Ron Kozza, Cory Lentz, Zach Borger, Carol Haines and Pastor Candi Cain-Borgman.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Mr. William Dorney in loving memory of departed loved ones. Given by Mrs. Gail Christman in memory of her parents and grandparents. BULLETIN:

Given by Dale Clauser in loving memory of his wife Nancy Clauser.

Given by Ken & Gail Ruth in memory of departed loved ones.

Given by Sarah Fraser in memory of Uncle David F. Shellhammer.

DEVOTIONALS:

Given by The Estate of Paul and Madlyn Haines in memory of departed loved ones.

YOUTH BULLETIN:

Given by Tamara House to the glory of God.



If you would like to sponsor the church bulletin

@ \$5 per week, please contact Jenny
at the church office.

Some dates have come available.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter, Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney and JJ, Connie D., Alicia Eggert, Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Ray Fenstermacher, Charles Schiffert, Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty, Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer, Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn, Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner, Megan, Terry Mace, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Lisa Stover Halley and Family To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the church office. (Hospitalization codes: 203 and 404)

Note: The Lehigh Valley and Saint Luke's Hospital Lists are not kept up to date and can be difficult to navigate. So, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Candi if you or a family member is hospitalized.

L.M.D Summer Ingathering:

Collecting Items for Lunch Program run by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Catasauqua. They are providing free lunches in a local park to feed and support children of their community. We been asked to collect the following items beginning April 14th thru May.

- 1. Individual salty snack bags
- 2. 16oz bottles of water

Church Calendar

3. Walmart (Sam's Club) gift cards in \$10 increments for Trinity Lutheran to purchase needed supplies

Ciruicii Calciluai		
Sunday, April 7, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Tuesday, April 9, 2024		
C.A.B. MEETING	7:00pm	100
Wednesday, April 10, 2024		
Choir Practice	7:00pm	100
Thursday, April 11, 2024		
Endowment	7:00pm	103
Sunday, April 14, 2024		
Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
CHURCH SOCIAL	10:30am	Kitchen, Social Hall

Pastor Prayer List

Garnett, Kathy Ehrhardt, Marty and Roseanne Ritter, Traevis and Cassidy, Sydney, Connie D., Alicia Eggert, Greg and Heather Gravec, David Annoni, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Ray Fenstermacher, Charles Schiffert, Margaret Boyle, Carnell and Abby, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Nancy Erdman, Barbara, Hailey, Patti, George Minnich, Gail and Ken Ruth, Tom Bartman, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Charles Haggerty, Denise, Sara Beth, Amanda and Jessie, Mary, Connor, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Gary Shellhammer, Susan Pursell, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Ron Zorn, Rod, Kathleen, Jean Robertson, Christine Wagner, Megan, Dawn Fenstermacher, Kim Bastian, Linda Ellis, Scott, Debbie, Shirley McNabb, Pauline Gaal, Al and Joan Plarr, Haisley Grim, Gene and Joan, Howard and Nancy, Cassie Mace, Cindy Fenstermacher, Anna Mae Derhammer, Brooke Weber, Fritz and Ardella Ehrhardt, Members of our Recovery Groups, Lisa Stover Halley and Family