



4th Sunday of Easter
April 26th, 2026
Redemption Lutheran Church
8001 Bustleton Ave.
Philadelphia PA 19152
www.redemptionphiladelphia.org

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

(The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.)

The assembly stands.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

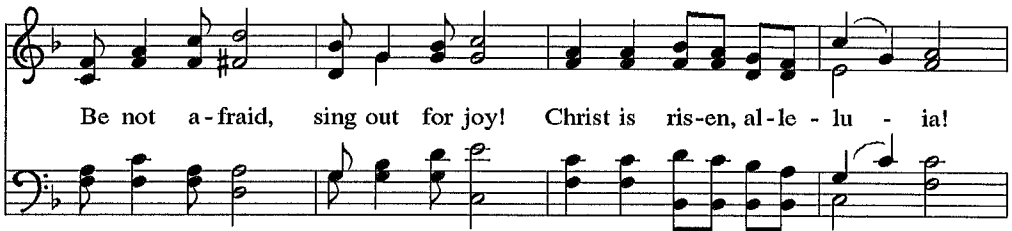
GATHERING HYMN – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - ELW 807*

GREETING

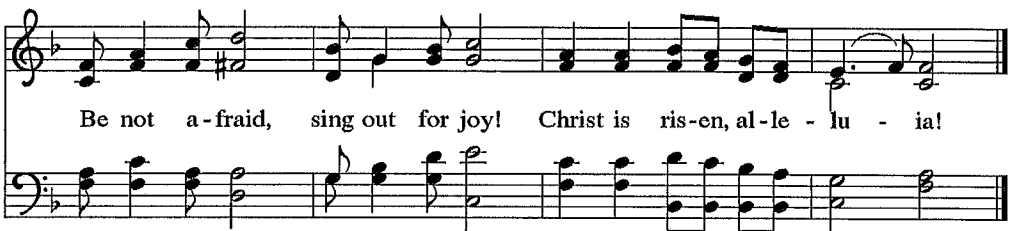
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

HYMN OF PRAISE - ELW 388 - Sung Three Times



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

P: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

(God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.)

FIRST READING: Acts 2: 42-47

R: A Reading from Acts

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The Psalm is read responsively.

- ¹ The LORD [|] is my shepherd;
I shall not [|] be in want.
- ² **The LORD makes me lie down [|] in green pastures
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.**
- ³ You restore my [|] soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall [|] fear
no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort me. R**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is [|] running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days [|] of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the [|] LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2: 19-25

R: A Reading from Peter

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself

bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ELW 673 *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. We sing the first two verses before the gospel reading and the second two after the reading.*



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

GOSPEL: John 10: 1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Ron Wesemann

The assembly remains seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY – *The Lord’s My Shepherd* – ELW 778

The assembly stands.

CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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, he 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer ends with the words, "Merciful God," and the congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

(God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.)

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

P: Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - ELW 189

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. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

The assembly may be seated. The bread is broken for communion.

COMMUNION

You may come to the rail to receive communion. The bread is gluten free, and you may dip it in the wine or grape juice. If you can't come to the rail communion will be brought to you.

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

P: 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,

C: Amen

SENDING

(God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.)

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN – Have No Fear, Little Flock – *ELW 764*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Worship Permissions

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Our Prayer List

Our Members: Bob Conn, Mabel Turner, Ethel Metz, Doris LaMar

Our Community: Joe Wolf (uncle of Lynn), Barbara Laundenbacker, (daughter of Helen), Bill Traubel (brother of Helen), Kathy Schultz (cousin of Karen), Dave Speece (friend of John & Diane), Karen Giampetro (friend of John & Diane), Paul & Lea Ressler (friends of Arlene), Claire Reichel (friend of Arlene), Lori Lafferty (friend of Arlene)

Please complete a Prayer Request form.

Announcements

During this time of pastoral transition, we want to share our financial status with the congregation by reporting the amount budgeted for monthly offering income, versus actual monthly offering income. Budgeted monthly offering income for April is \$5,800, and to date we have received \$9,390.

Feast of Justice Collection – Personal Care items are needed. Full-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Soap, toothpaste, deodorant and especially feminine products would be greatly appreciated. You can place the items in the box in the Narthex.

Fostering Hope Collection – Fostering Hope is hosting a Donation Drive. They are requesting new clothing for girls/boys, all sizes/all seasons. Please place contributions in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary.

Do you have travel size toiletries? Please give them to Merry Kelly, as she is collecting them for the Welcome Church.

Save the Date

Sunday, May 10th – We plan to have special music.

Sunday, June 7th – The Men of Harmony, an all-male choral group, will be joining our 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Sunday, July 5th – Join us as we celebrate the Semiquincentennial (250th Birthday of the USA) with a patriotic themed sermon, music and more.

Saturday, September 26th – The Faithful Travelers will take their 2nd Bus Trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. We will see the 11:00a.m. performance of Joshua and have a family – style luncheon at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant. The cost is \$250 for adults and \$190 for children (under 12). See the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. A \$125 deposit is due by May 1st. Pastor Ron Wesemann will present a Bible Study on the book of Joshua before the trip.