



– *John 15:9-17*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

• May 5, 2024 •

9:00 a.m. Service

(In-person & Online)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Arendtsville, Pennsylvania

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Arendtsville, PA

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

• May 5, 2024 •

Pastor Ben Siebert pastorbensiebert@gmail.com

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Office 717-677-8921 trinityarendtsvilleoffice@gmail.com

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:00-6:00 pm)

* *Congregation stands, as able*

(Pastor's parts) – in light print

ALL join in! – in bold print

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

* **GATHERING SONG**

ELW # 656

'Blest Be the Tie that Binds'

1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind
Is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

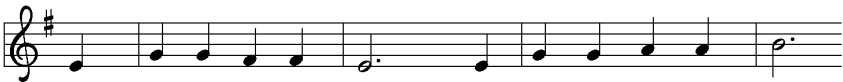
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt.

* GREETING

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

* KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water

for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*** GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the fifteenth chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another

as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ben Siebert

*** 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 INTERCESSION**

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 Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace as we greet one another.

MEAL

OFFERING

* OFFERTORY: *'Create in Me a Clean Heart'*

ELW # 186



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

Amen.

* DIALOGUE: *'The Great Thanksgiving'*



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**

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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n 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 -

that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

*** 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.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG: 'O Lamb of God'



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

'Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love'

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. *(Refrain)*
2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are nearby and far away. *(Refrain)*
3. These are the ones we will serve,
These are the ones we will love;
All these are neighbors to us and you. *(Refrain)*
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet:
This is the way we will live with you. *(Refrain)*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt. Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin.

* **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

* Postlude

The Ministers of Worship & Service

Presiding Minister	Pastor Ben Siebert
Organist/Pianist	Ellie Vranich
Chancel Choir Coordinator	Ellie Vranich
Children's Choir Director	Josie Pelc
Children's Choir Accompanist	Andy Pelc
Altar Guild	Sue Kuhn & Audrey Ridinger
Head Usher	Jim Ridinger
Ushers/Greeters/Communion Assistants	(Volunteers)
Lector	Phyllis Knouse
Acolytes	(Volunteers)
Sound Technician	(Volunteer)
Administrative Assistant	Kathy Singley
Head Counter/Offering Counters	(TBD)

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God from local gardens.

Communion Notes: All baptized Christians are invited to the table. Children who have not received instruction in the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing. Communion in the pews is available for anyone who wishes. Please notify an usher.

Grape Juice is available for those who avoid alcohol. After receiving bread, go to a Communion Assistant and ask for a vessel from the rack. The Communion Assistant will provide the blessing.

Welcome Visitors: It is a pleasure having you join us for worship today. Please sign our guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to offer any comments on your worship experience at Trinity or have a request, please send us a note to P.O. Box 309, Arendtsville, PA 17303 or by email at trinityarendtsville office@gmail.com.

Weekly Attendance for March 2024:

March 10 - 52

March 17 - 49

March 24 - 58



PRAYER LIST

• May 5, 2024 •

Our Prayer List: 4 weeks

Our Long Term Prayer List: 2 months

- Alyson (friend of Kathy Wholaver)
- Bonnie Breeding* (Brilharts' son-in-law's grandmother)
- Wayne & Sandy Eisenberg (Ruth Sobotor's neighbors – health)
- William Helwig* (assisted living)



Prayer List Submission Guidelines

Names on "Our Prayer List" will run for **four weeks**, unless otherwise requested. Those names marked with an (*) will indicate the fourth week and be subject to removal. If you wish to have them stay on, please let us know or the names will be removed from the list. Names on the "Long Term Prayer List" will run for **two months**. To place someone on the list, fill out the following form and give it to an usher, place in the offering plate, or give it to the church office.

Person: _____

Which List? _____ Our Prayer List _____ Long Term

Your Name: _____



The Unconditional Love of Disciple-Friends

Friend requests are a common feature of Facebook and similar digital platforms. When it comes to social media, “friends” are just a click away. But there is no automatic guarantee of accountability, warmth, relationship, or true belonging in a virtual community. In stark contrast, Jesus invites the disciples to become part of a community where selfless, sacrificial, unconditional *agape* love is the core criterion. The kingdom, or “kin-dom,” of God is present wherever God’s people are affirmed as children of God and siblings in Christ. But Jesus gives his disciples an additional identity: that of “friends.”

In the new status Jesus confers on his disciples, the single most important criterion is love, including the readiness to lay down one’s life for another. Jesus has just taught this lesson by example when he washed the feet of his disciples, including Judas Iscariot. The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us summarizes the whole of the gospel mandate. It is not an easy commandment by any human standards, but it is possible because Jesus himself showed us the way and forgives us when we fall short. The status of “disciple-friends” is not a request for the church, but a faith mandate.

How can we live as disciple-friends of Jesus in this world? When we believe, trust, obey, and follow the word, and the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, a real new community is born. When we learn to embrace the other—those who are marginalized and “othered”—we partner with God in enabling the image of God to blossom to its fullest.



Announcements for May 5, 2024

- ✝ **TODAY: EIMI Confirmation Class** will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Trinity. (Final Class.) *Service of Confirmation: **May 19 at 9 a.m.***
- ✝ **May 19: Service of Confirmation.** All are invited to attend the Service of Confirmation to be held at Trinity on Sunday, May 19, during the 9 a.m. worship hour. A reception with light refreshments will be held following the service. *Our confirmands are:* Jack Kane, Beckett Nelson, and Marcus Pritt (Upper Bermudian).
- ✝ **May 19: Fifth Annual 'UACT Day at The Park'!** All local youth with their families and friends are invited to Oakside Park, Biglerville, on Sunday, May 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Fifth Annual UACT Day at The Park. It will be an afternoon of fun, games, and fellowship, so bring a friend. It is a FREE event which will be held "rain or shine". No RSVP is necessary. *Save the date! (See bulletin boards.)*
- ✝ **2024 Graduates.** If your child or other relative is graduating from high school, college, professional or trade school and they would like to be honored, please contact the church office at trinityarendtsvilleoffice@gmail.com or 717-677-8921 with information, such as where they are graduating from, future plans, and parent name(s). The graduates will be honored in May.
- ✝ **NEEDED: Two Synod Assembly Delegates.** Trinity is currently seeking two delegates (one male and one female) for the upcoming Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly to be held May 31 and June 1. The first day of assembly on Friday, May 31, will be an evening session via Zoom of the general agenda. On Saturday, June 1, it will be an in-person meeting with a day of business. For more information on the 2024 Synod Assembly, go to the Lower Susquehanna Synod's website at: lss-elca.org.
- ✝ **NEEDED: Council Secretary.** Trinity's Congregational Council is seeking a Council Secretary. If interested in serving our congregation by volunteering your time to this position or if having questions, see Council President Rick Pelc, Pastor Ben, or current Council Secretary Richard Bachman.
- ✝ **Gettysburg Soup Kitchen.** For over 30 years, Trinity has supported feeding those in need by sponsoring the first Saturday of each month at the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. As the procedures for providing this meal have changed and the meal is now handled in-house by the Soup Kitchen staff, they still need our support to offset the cost of food. We are suggesting a donation of **\$50 a month**, but any amount is appreciated. If you would like to sponsor a month during 2024, please see or contact Ruth Sobotor (717-253-5650) or Jan McQuaid (717-398-2106). If writing a check, please make it payable to: **Gettysburg Soup Kitchen.** *Thank you for your support!*