

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

April 28, 2024

D – Deacon A - Assistant L – Lector R – Response

Please be aware that worship is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our Facebook/YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. It is best to sit in the balcony or in the last four pews to not be seen on camera. Holy Communion can be brought to you in your seat so that you are not filmed receiving the Sacrament. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

***GATHERING HYMN** *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”* Hymn #367

*INVOCATION

We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.

D: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

*GREETING

D: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

R: Blessed be God forever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

D: Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

L: A reading from Acts.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31 *(sung responsively)*

My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | Lord shall praise him:*

"May your heart | live forever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,*

and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.

For kingship belongs | to the Lord;*

he rules o- | ver the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;*

all who go down to the dust | fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;*

they shall be known as the | Lord's forever.

They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn*

the saving deeds that | he has done.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

L: A reading from First John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Please stand in honor of the Gospel.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

D: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

D: A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

We make the sign of the cross with our right thumb on our forehead, lips, and heart to symbolize the gospel being present in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

***GOSPEL READING**

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Please stand as you are able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

Hymn #377

During the Hymn, the candidates for baptism and their families meet the Deacon and assistants at the Font.

BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

D: Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful grace.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

D: My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on those who are about to be baptized and on all the baptized.

A brief silence.

A: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe these candidates in light, give them the new life of baptism and welcome them into your holy Church. Lord, in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

A: Through baptism, make them your faithful followers and a witnesses to your gospel. Lord in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

A: Lead them by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

A: Make the lives of their parents and sponsors examples of faith to inspire them. Lord, in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

A: Keep their families always in your love. Lord, in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

A: Renew the grace of our baptism in each of us. Lord, in your mercy.

R: Hear our prayer.

With hands extended in prayer:

***PRAYER OF EXORCISM**

D: Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue humanity from the kingdom of darkness, and bring us into the splendor of your kingdom of light. We pray for Bryson and Cecelia: set them free from original sin, make them a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell with them. We ask all this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

***ANOINTING BEFORE BAPTISM**

Anointing of the candidate's forehead with the Oil of the Catechumens blessed by the Bishop.

D: We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Savior; may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R: Amen.

***CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT**

D: My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give to these children new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Water is poured into the Font during the prayer.

***BLESSING OF WATER**

D: O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism; O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify; O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue; O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized; O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Deacon continues with hands extended in prayer:

Look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism. May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

The Deacon touches the water with her right hand:

We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

***RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

D: Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present these children for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the the faith. See that the divine life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism with the faithful gathered here. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which these children are about to be baptized.

Addressing the people:

Do you reject Satan?

R: I do.

D: And all his works?

R: I do.

D: And all his empty promises?

R: I do.

D: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

R: I do.

D: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

R: I do.

D: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R: I do.

D: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

BAPTISM OF MULTIPLE CHILDREN

D: Is it your will that Bryson and Cecelia should be baptized in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

Parents and Sponsors: It is.

D: Bryson Carter/Cecelia Grace, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ANOINTING OF THE CHILDREN AFTER BAPTISM

Anointing of the newly baptized's forehead with the Sacred Chrism Oil blessed by the Bishop

D: God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

R: Amen.

CLOTHING WITH A WHITE GARMENT

D: Bryson and Cecelia, you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

R: Amen.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Easter Candle with these words:

LIGHTED CANDLE

D: Receive the light of Christ. Parents and sponsors, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may we go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

WELCOME

D: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

R: You have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please remain seated while the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.

MEAL

OFFERING

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

During the Hymn, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is brought from the Tabernacle to the Altar.

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Hymn #362
verses 1-5, and 8

***LORD'S PRAYER**

D: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

***PEACE**

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

R: And also with you.

D: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Please remain standing after sharing the Peace.

***LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holding the host over the chalice:

***INVITATION**

D: This the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

R: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *(for those viewing via live-stream)*

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who acknowledge the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would prefer a blessing come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Beginning with the front pews, form one line and make your way down the center aisle. Please pick up a communion glass from the tray on your right. Receive our Lord Jesus' Body from the Deacon and, according to where you are seated, receive his Precious Blood from the Assistant and consume both elements. Upon receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, respond **Amen**. Please place your used communion glass in the tray on the table and return to your seat by the side aisle. Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

COMMUNION HYMNS

"I Received the Living God"

Hymn #477

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Hymn #857

"Shout to the Lord"

Hymn #821

Please stand at the direction of the Deacon.

***POST-COMMUNION HYMN**



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

D: Let us pray. Merciful Father, may these mysteries give us a new purpose and bring us to a new life in you. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

D: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.

D: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

Hymn #881

***DISMISSAL**

D: Go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING TODAY:

Deacon/Homilist

Deacon Kristen Barnes

Assistant

Karlene Jaggan

Lector

Lisa Lugovich

Communion Assistant

Louise Murphy

Acolyte

Lexi Frye

Organist

Barbara Dupler

Greeters/Ushers

Rich & Nadine Espenshade

Altar Care

Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer

THOSE SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Celebrant/Homilist

The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*

Assistant

Karen Gussler

Lector

Jordan Frye

Acolytes

Jacob Mende, Mary Shellenberger, & Gabe Gonzales

Communion Assistant

Louise Murphy

Greeters/Ushers

Rick & Linda Blair

Organist

Barbara Dupler

Altar Guild

Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel

THE SEASON OF EASTER

April 28 @ 9am - **Fifth Sunday of Easter** (*Baptism of Bryson Terry and Cecelia Coenen*)

May 5 @ 9am - **Sixth Sunday of Easter** (*Children in Worship with Crowning of Mary Statue*)

May 9 @ 7pm - **The Ascension of the Lord**

May 12 @ 9am - **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

May 19 @ 9am - **The Day of Pentecost** (*Rite of Confirmation for Jacob Mende, Mary Shellenberger, Emily Dupler, and Gabe Gonzales*)

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*March 31, 2024*)

2024 Approved Budget \$277,995

Income: \$75,828.37

Expenses: \$66,727.32

Love of Family Contributions: \$0

Local Food Pantry Contributions: \$1,231.14

Capital Improvement Contributions: \$10,320

Abiding Memorial Fund: \$380

Adult Forum: \$186.50

Sub Sale: \$765.50

We rejoice in the Lord as we welcome Bryson Carter Terry and Cecelia Grace Coenen through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Love of Family. This fund is designed to assist those in the congregation and the community financially envelope in the narthex.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Scedella Mader, Patsy Plouse, Sylvia Plouse, Richard Sattazahn, Doris Shaull, and Herb Shaull.*

Shells A.R.M.Y. (Your Group) will have a a lock-in on May 4th. Details will be shared closer to the date. Please mark your calendars for a great night! *May the 4th be with you.*

Race Track Project: The Adult Sunday School class will be collecting shave cream & razors for the months of March and April. Thank you all for your kind support of this cause.

In celebration of Pentecost, on May 19th, we'd like to request donations of red flowers to adorn the sanctuary. The flowers will then be planted outside in the flower beds. Flowers such as red geraniums, petunia's, salvia, celosia or other sun loving annuals are appreciated. Any questions can be directed to Raelene.

Shells Fun Task Force has met!! We have planned an entire year of fun-filled opportunities for everyone! Our event for July will be a Harrisburg Senators game on Sunday July 21 at 1 pm. We need to know who wants to join this FUN time. Tickets are \$13 in Ollie's Cheap seats. Please let Theresa know if you are interested in attending by May 15. (*If financial help is needed, please let Father Barnes know*)

2024 Shells Fun Task Force Save the Dates

June 8 @ 5:30pm - East Hanover Park Evening

Bring your own meal. Meet at the back pavilion

July 21 @ 1pm- Harrisburg Senators Baseball Game

Please contact Theresa to order tickets by May 15

August 9 @ 6:30pm - Mini golf and ice cream at Challenge Golf in Hummelstown

September 14 - Knoebels Grove

12-2pm hotdogs + provided by church

October 27 - Trunk or Treat

November 23 -Yuengling Brewery tour

December – Christmas Caroling

This week at Shells:

April 28 at 9am - Distribution of Holy Communion

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am Children Youth Sunday School & Confirmation

10:30am Fellowship and Food in the Social Hall

Brunch at Manada Hill Diner

6pm Boy Scouts

April 29 at 6:30pm - Bible Study @ St. John

May 1 at 6pm - Girl Scouts

May 2 at 6pm - Cub Scouts

May 4 - Shells ARMY Youth Group Lock In

May 5 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Children in Worship with the Crowning of an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:30am Fellowship and Food in the Social Hall

10:30am Hand Chime Choir

10:45am Adult Forum

11:45am Lunch at Manada Hill Diner

6pm Boy Scouts

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed."

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Cell: 717-870-4505

Email: fatherbarnes3@gmail.com

Barbara Dupler, Director of Music

Email: scdbjd@aol.com

Theresa Reidmiller, Administrative Assistant

Email: shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

Charles Schreiber, Treasurer

Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com

Parish Council: Colin Blair, Tom Terry, Christina Frye, Ken Espenshade, Linda DiMario

Brenda Frye (S), Sandy Mader (VP), Raelene Smith (P), Sherry Ulsh (T)

Visit us on Facebook and "like" our church page:

Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

Password: **GodIsAwesome** (*case-sensitive*)