

6th Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024
10:45 a.m.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
North Versailles, Pennsylvania

A Place for Everyone



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

*A Reconciling in Christ congregation
of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor



Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church!

We are happy to have you with us today!

- You will find the entire worship service printed on the following pages. Words spoken or sung by the people are **in bold type**. Explanations of the structure and content of the service are *written like this*. Large print bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby).
- When asked to stand, please do so only as you are able and comfortable.
- **At St. John's, we practice an open table for communion.** All who seek God from any tradition or denomination are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer to have a blessing instead of communion, come forward and cross your arms over your chest or ask the pastor for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you have an alcohol sensitivity you may receive bread alone or take a cup of grape juice from the small wooden stand on the bell table. If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.
- **Children are always a welcome part of worship** at St. John's, and the "Sermon for Young Disciples" is especially for them. You are invited to send (or bring) little ones to the front of the sanctuary at the appropriate time. Children's bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby) providing activities based on today's scripture readings.
- If you need to step out of the sanctuary with your child(ren) during worship, please know that you will still be able to hear the service from the **Narthex** (lobby). If you wish, you may also make use of the un-staffed **Nursery Room**, where you can also hear the service. You and your child can also use the **Prayground** which is in the front of the church on the left (streetside). There are drawing materials, quiet toys, and seats for children and adults.
- St. John's records and shares our worship services as a ministry to those who are unable to join us in person. Please be aware that videography, livestreaming, and other **recording** may be in progress during this service, and that we sometimes feature photos of church activities on our website and social media.
- **Hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher to enhance your worship experience.

*Worship begins
with a chance to
prepare our
hearts and
minds to
encounter God.
Turn off your
electronic
devices and
bring your
conversations to
an end.*

*6th Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024 10:45 a.m.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Quietly center your heart and mind for worship.*

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned
from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly
sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed
to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we
may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In
the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God
strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live
in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*We stand,
as able.*

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

*We turn to face
the processional
cross
continually
facing it on its
way to the front
of the church.*



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.
Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamorčský Kancionál*, 1561
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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*The apostle Paul
concluded his
second letter to
the Corinthians
(13:13) with this
Trinitarian
greeting. His
other letters
contain similar
greetings.*

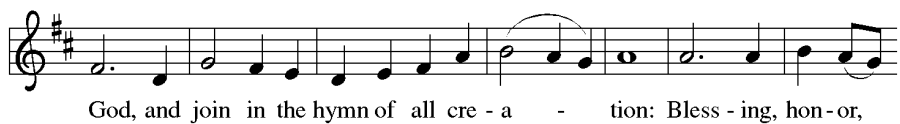
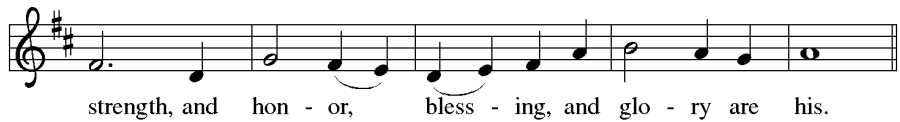
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PAISE

*We sing praises
along with the
heavenly host
around the
throne of God
with words from
the Revelation to
John.*



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

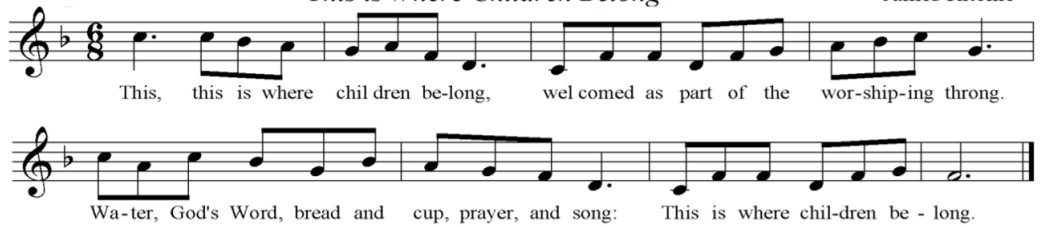
Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and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

After the prayer, we sit.

SERMON FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES
NOISY OFFERING

Sherie Cannin

This is Where Children Belong James Ritchie



This, this is where chil dren be-long, wel comed as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.
Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER: Psalm 98

Read in responsively.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

We recite one of the ancient scriptures found in the Bible.

- ⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
- ⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy
before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**
- ⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples
with equity

*God's children
believe that
Jesus is the
Messiah and
love God by
keeping God's
commandments.
Thus the world
is conquered not
through military
might but
through love and
faith.*

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from 1 John.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We stand as if
to welcome
Jesus himself
into our midst
for the reading
of the gospel,
a message of
good news from
Jesus.*

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.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.

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.

*On the night of
his arrest, Jesus
delivers a final
testimony to his
disciples to help
them in the days
ahead. Here, he
repeats the most
important of all
his commands,
that they love
one another.*

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 656

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*We stand,
as able.*



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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



Throughout history, Christians have presented the basic beliefs of the church in documents called creeds.

We respond to the good news presented in the scriptures and sermon by reciting one of the church's creeds, proclaiming our faith in the God who creates us, saves us, and makes us to be holy people.

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,
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.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*We pray about
what is
happening in the
world.*

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.

We kneel as able, or sit. 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, especially those we name before you...

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

Preparing for receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we make sure there are no disagreements or grudges within the gathered group.

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Fellowship Pads and Offering

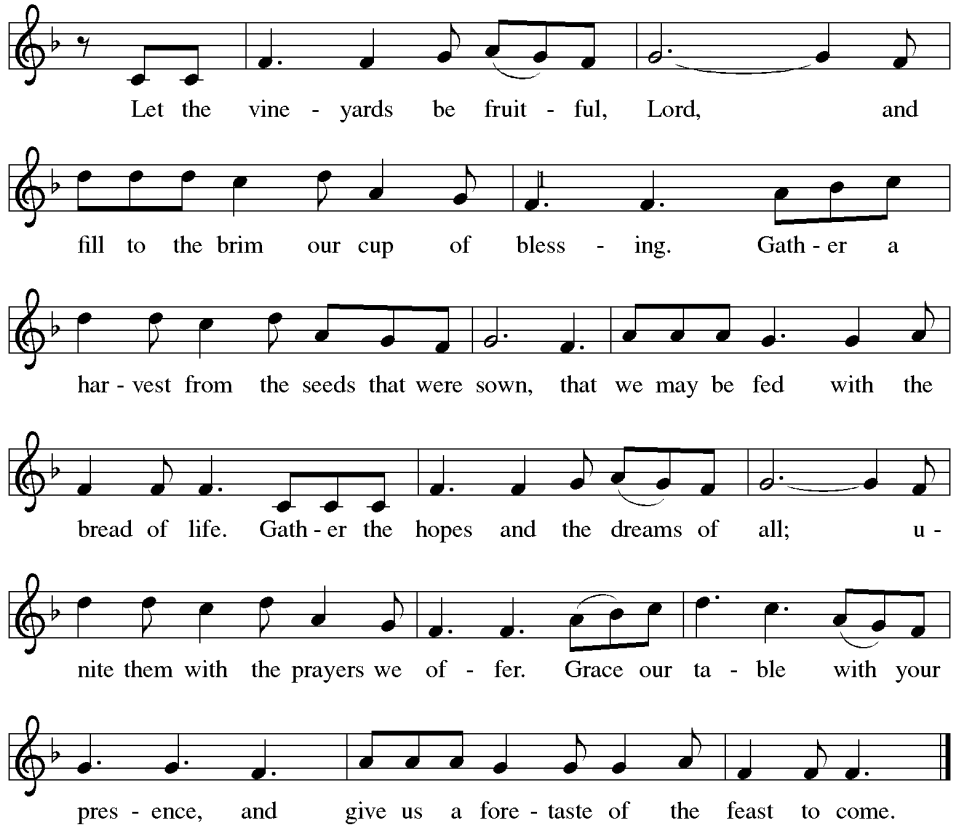
During the offering, we pass the fellowship pad to each person in the pew. Print your name and check the appropriate blocks, especially if communing. As the pad returns to its place by the center aisle, note the names of other worshippers, and greet them after the service.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “A New Commandment”

OFFERING HYMN

We stand and sing a song of joy and hope as the congregation's gifts to God are brought forward including bread and wine that we will share in Holy Communion.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*We stand as
able.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

*The pastor leads
us in singing or
speaking these
joyful words.*

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.

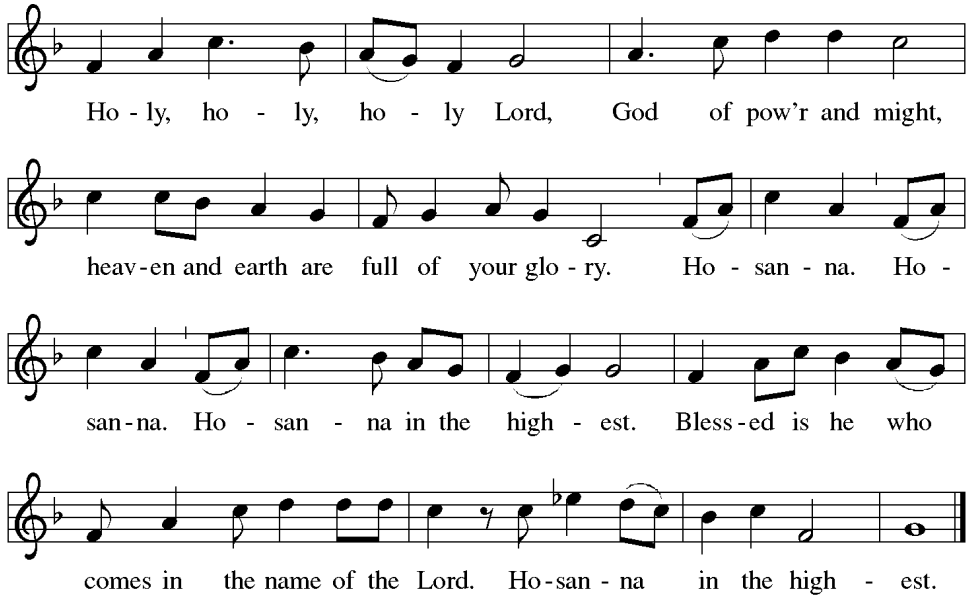
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection
of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself
to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,
and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the
res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

This song which combines words sung by angels in heaven and words sung about Jesus on earth, is based upon Isaiah 6: 3 and Matthew 21:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

The pastor offers thanks for the many ways God has blessed us throughout history.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

After describing God at work through history we use words spoken by Jesus at the last supper that he had with his disciples.

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.

*In the meantime
we are reminded
that we are
called to work
and make God's
will a reality in
our world.*

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim
the LORD's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your
arms from death to life, 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

*Jesus teaches
this prayer to his
disciples in
chapter six of
Matthew's
gospel.*

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All who seek God and a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. Extend your hands if you wish to receive, and keep your hands folded if you want only a blessing.
Parents should indicate if the children receive.*

*Communion is distributed by intinction. Come forward by the center aisle.
Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available.
After receiving the wafer, you may dip it partially into the wine before eating it.
You may eat just the wafer as Christ is fully present in each element.*

Let an usher know of your need for communion to be brought to you.

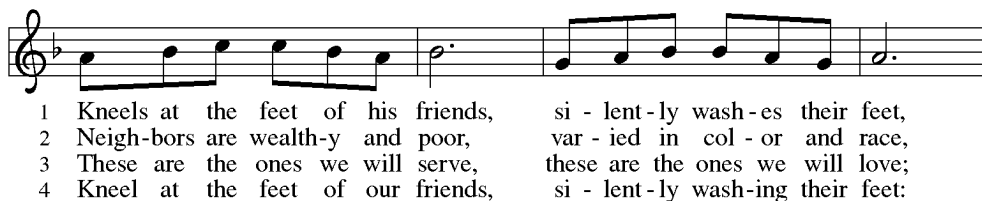
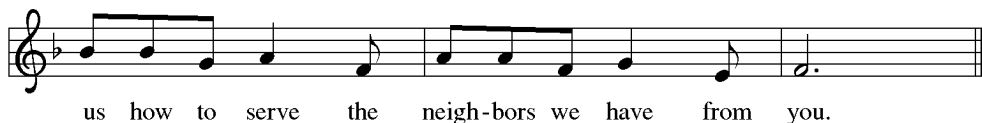
COMMUNION SONGS

During the distribution we sing “Lamb of God” and hymn ELW 708.

The witness of John the Baptist in John 1:29 becomes our witness and prayer as we receive Jesus in the communion meal.

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.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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*We stand as
able.*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



Amen
amen
amen

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*In preparation
for departure,
we turn as the
cross is carried
past us and face
the back of the
church.*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED

OUR SERVICE BEGINS

*Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the narthex
to welcome guests and to visit with one another.*

*The Paschal Candle burns at all Services during the Easter Season (40 days until Ascension Day) and thereafter lit at baptisms and funerals. This is a constant reminder of the gift of **NEW LIFE**, made available to us through Baptism into the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Easter, being the greatest festival of the Church, is celebrated not for a day or a week, but for a week of weeks - seven weeks! Throughout these "Great Fifty Days" we continue to celebrate the Resurrection in a special way, and we begin to see how it affects all parts of our lives. We are witnesses of the Resurrection, and our lives show forth the Lord's victory.*

WELCOME BACK PASTOR KIMBERLY!

Noisy Offering: This month's designation for our Noisy Offering is Camp Lutherlyn. Lutherlyn is a year-round ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Prospect, PA, where a natural setting for a Christian community committed to experiencing all of God's creation is offered. Lutherlyn has 5 core areas of ministry: Summer Camp; Retreats/Events; Environmental Education; Equestrian Center and Adventure Programs. There is something for everyone!

Spring means Graduation! Please contact the office by May 12 if you or if you know of any members of St. John's that are graduating this spring – from high school, college, graduate school or trade school. We would love to recognize these achievements!

Coffee & Conversation: Please join us this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to open our discussion on the Book of Proverbs. You know that God laid out a Plan on How to BE good (The Ten Commandments), but did you know that He also laid out a Plan on how to live a good life? Way before Tic Toc, God had Life Hacks galore!..This Sunday, we'll discuss the history of this amazing book, its origins and authorship, and continue to enlarge our hearts for receiving His wisdom.

Phone Directory: A new phone directory will be distributed on May 5. If you do not want your information included be sure to let the office know **as soon as possible**. Included in the directory will be home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Mother's Day: St. John's has a tradition of honoring mothers as part of our worship on Mother's Day. An opportunity is provided for you to honor or remember your mother, or a woman who is like a mother to you, by making a contribution (any amount, your discretion) toward the Altar flowers for that weekend. Offerings received over and above the cost of the flowers will go to St. John's St. Afterschool Program. A special bulletin for Mother's Day weekend will include the names of all those who honored or remembered mothers by contributing to the flowers. Order forms are on the credenza in the narthex. Place your completed form and donation in the box on the secretary's credenza. All forms should be in by **TODAY**.

Vacation Bible School: It's hard to believe, but it's almost time for Vacation Bible School! VBS at Linway is planned for June 3 through June 6 (Monday through Thursday) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Informational flyers are posted throughout the narthex and registration forms are available on the desk with the bulletins.

2024 Stewardship Focus: The focus of Stewardship for 2024 is "An Attitude of Gratitude." Each month we'll offer you a different question about gratitude to prompt you to think about gratitude in a variety of ways. You might want to keep a gratitude journal for the year, or a simple paper with each answer for each month. For **May**, our question is: **"What personal strengths are you grateful for and how have they helped you in life"?** Note your thoughts in a place that you'll be able to find next month when we highlight the next question.

MA's Pantry Items: The Mission Outreach committee is reminding you to include items for MA's Pantry each time you do your own food shopping. The remaining distribution date for May is 5/18, and the request for May is Mixes (cakes, muffins, brownies, Jello, pudding...). Please help fill our collection box to overflowing!

Altar Flowers: The Altar Flowers are sponsored to the Glory of God by Sandy Smith in honor of the twin's 12th birthday.

In Worship Today:

Greeters: Sherie & Doug Cannin
Worship Assistant: Sandy Smith
Acolyte: Josh Cannin
Head Usher: Joe Lundie
Ushers: Bob & Susan Reimer
Coffee Fellowship: Cindy Luke/Bev Motichak
Young Disciples Leader: Sherie Cannin

In Worship Next Week – 5/12/24

Greeters: Judy Jamison; Bertie Palmieri
Worship Assistant: Chuck Schaller
Acolyte: Rachel Motichak; Brenda Neundorf
Head Usher: Ed Ward
Ushers: Bev Motichak; Bonnie Cowan
Coffee Fellowship: Faith Musselwhite
Young Disciples Leader: TBD

Important Dates

This Week:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| * Today, May 5 | 9:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Adult Coffee and Conversation
Sunday School
Traditional Worship |
| * Mon., May 6 | 6:30 – 9:00 PM
7:00 PM | 12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library
Bell Choir |
| * Tues., May 7 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM
6:30 PM | Craft Club
Game Night |
| * Sat., May 11 | 9:00 to 11:00 AM | 12 Step Group |

Coming Up:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| * Sun., May 12
<i>Mother's Day</i> | 9:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Adult Coffee and Conversation
Sunday School
Traditional Worship |
| * Mon., May 13 | 11:00 AM
6:30 – 9:00 PM
7:00 PM | EA AARP – Miller Hall
12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library
Bell Choir |
| * Tues., May 14 | 7:00 PM | Council via Zoom |
| * Thurs., May 16 | 7:00 PM | Women of the ELCA via Zoom |
| * Sat., May 18 | 9:00 to 11:00 AM | 12 Step Group |
| * Sun., May 19
<i>Pentecost</i>
<i>Education Sunday</i> | 9:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Adult Coffee and Conversation
Sunday School
Traditional Worship |

We Remember in Our Prayers

You are invited to use this page in your devotion and prayer time.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

We give thanks for our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ, and for their cultures, languages and contributions to our nation and church. We pray for the well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander congregations and ministries of the ELCA as well as the work of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Amen

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Linda Hoffman Charlett, ongoing prayers.

Jenny Baur, health concerns, (daughter of Jan Burkhart and daughter in law of Jerry & Sherry Baur).

Jan Burkhart, health concerns.

Carol, health concerns, (Ruthie Smith's sister).

Nancy Cutler, health concerns.

Delia, prayers for her and her children.

Stephen Kennedy, recovering from cancer surgery, (cousin of Judi Rogers).

Kimmy, health concerns, (grand-niece of Ruthie Smith).

Pastor Kimberly, ongoing health concerns.

Sarah Lundie, recovering from surgery.

Janean Miller, breast cancer, (sister-in-law of Justin Felt).

Karen Mitchell, breast cancer, (cousin of Judy Sabolic).

Clara Panzic, health concerns, (Ruthie Smith's sister).

Mary Ellen Pfeifer, UPMC East with a **broken hip**.

Tanya, health concerns, (friend of Ruthie Smith).

Dutchie Wojtowicz, recovering at her son's following hospital stay.

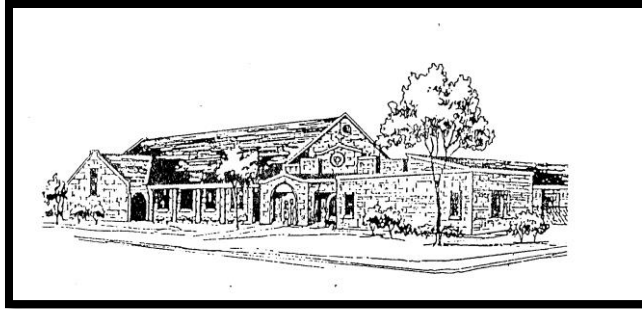
✝ We pray that peace can be restored to the people of Ukraine and Russia and to the Middle East.

✝ We pray for loved ones who are homebound, in care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Carl Dickson; Shirley Dickson; Sarah Haag; Sally, Marty and Samantha Kerchner; Ron Kramer; Dan McNamar; Ron Nerger; Craig Peterson; Dotty Sites; Ruthie Smith; Fran Thompson; Lew Thompson; Ed Ward; Janice Winkles; Joy Young; Edith Zoric.

✝ We pray for ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; SWPA Synod Bishop Kurt Kusserow, and the synod staff.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

To have friends or loved ones placed on the prayer list, contact the church office by email or phone; complete the blue prayer list form found on the table in the lobby; or complete the form on the website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com. If appropriate, include a brief reason and relationship. This list is cleared and updated monthly.



**St. John's Lutheran Church exists
to nurture people of all ages
on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ,
to support those in need,
and to reach out into the community
with God's healing and love.**



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor

kgreway@stjohnsnorthversailles.com 412-267-7753 cell

Debra Maurizi – Church Secretary

Derek Schofield – Director of Music

Ryan Seymour - Custodian



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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For more information, please visit our website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com

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