

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024
10:45 a.m.



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

A Place for Everyone



*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.*

*2nd Sunday of Easter
April 7, 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.*

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!

*We stand,
as able.*

The Risen Christ

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



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

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 Praise

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 AND 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 the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

PSALTER: Psalm 133

Read in unison.

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

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

A reading from 1 John.

*The opening of
this letter serves
as a reality
check. The
reality of God is
light, but our
confessed reality
has been sin.
God cleanses us
from our sinful
reality through
Christ's death so
that we live in
fellowship with
Christ and walk
in God's light.*

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O LORD.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY

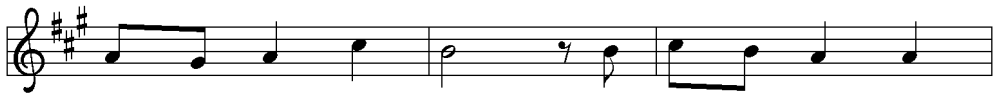
ELW 635

*We stand,
as able.*

We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here?"
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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NICENE CREED

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.

We pray about what is happening in the world.

**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.**

*Dietrich
Bonhoeffer,
theologian, died
1945*

*Bonhoeffer was
a German
theologian who
wrote
profoundly, yet
in an accessible
manner. In the
Second World
War, he became
a leader of the
Confessing
Church in
Germany that
resisted the Nazi
movement.
Linked to a plot
to kill Hitler, he
was hanged
shortly before
the end of the
war.*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain, especially those we name before you now...
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you, especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

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.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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. 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also 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:

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

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:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

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

In our last gathering for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remember that:

In the night in which he was betrayed, and handed over to suffering and death, 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

I bring you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, consecrated at our altar on a Sunday past, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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.

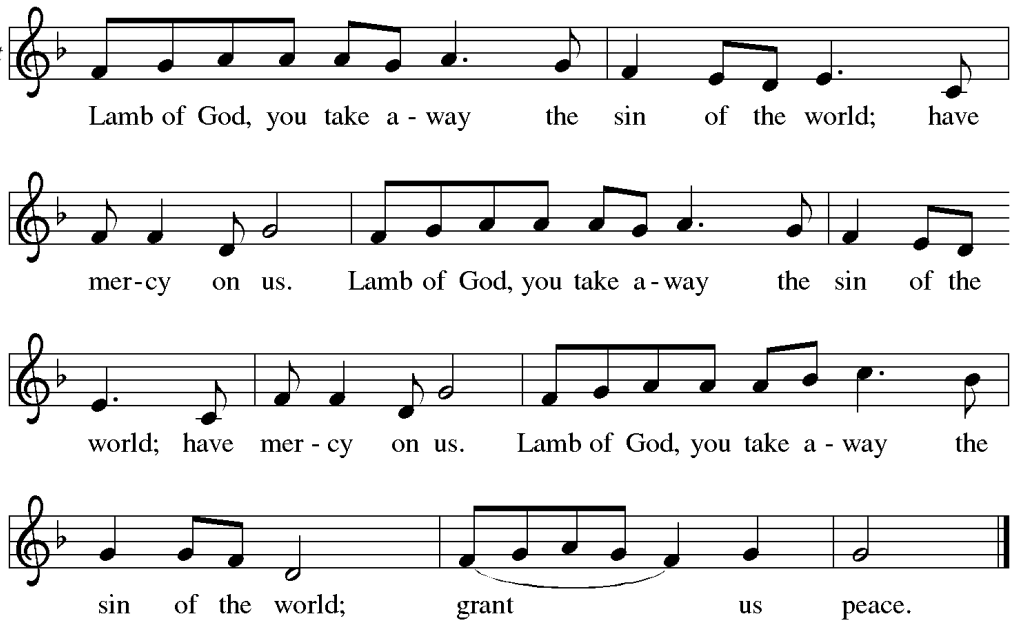
You may eat just the wafer as Christ is fully present in each element.

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 379.

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.

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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TABLE BLESSING

*We stand as
 able.*

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. Shepherd 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.**

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

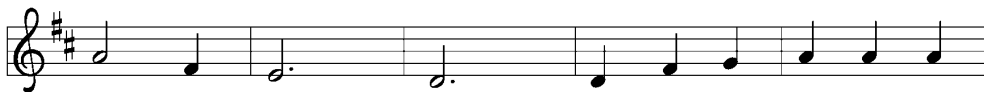


I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

DISMISSAL

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

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.*

Thank You: A grateful ‘Thank You’ is extended to Chuck Schaller for leading us in worship today!

Noisy Offering: This month our Noisy Offering is designated for the Lutheran Service Society. The Lutheran Service Society has been helping people of all ages and faith backgrounds for over 100 years. This organization manages senior care centers, offers food and nutrition services through a Meals on Wheels program, and also offers adoption and foster care services.

Coffee & Conversation: In April, the Coffee & Conversation group begins a journey into God’s Word through ‘Exploring the Psalms: Getting to know God and Ourselves’. This video series features Christian singer-songwriter Sandra McCracken, with each session focusing on a single psalm. A related song, performed by Sandra, further explores the psalm. Coffee, snacks, and interesting conversation always provided!

Three Rivers Ringers: On Saturday, April 13, St. John’s is hosting the Three Rivers Ringers - Pittsburgh’s premier community handbell ensemble. The Three Rivers Ringers will present a concert beginning at 7:30 and promises to be beautiful! The TRR will hold a clinic with our bell ringers in the afternoon and then return in the evening to entertain us. Plan to join us for an evening filled with beautiful music!

Soup Sale: The Mission Outreach Committee will host a Soup Sale on Sunday, April 21st immediately after worship. Everyone is invited to make and donate soup, stew or chili for this event. Please see Sherie Cannin if you’d like to be a soup maker and she’ll provide you with empty quart containers, labels, and lids. The quarts will be on sale for \$8 each with a limit of two quarts per person until everyone has had a chance to make their purchase. Once everyone has made it through the line, you may purchase additional quarts. Whether you are a soup maker, a soup purchaser, or both, the Mission Outreach Committee thanks you for your anticipated participation in this event!

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 **March**, our question is: **“Think about the beauty of ordinary moments you appreciate in life. Describe how they keep you grounded”**. 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 April is 4/20, and the request for April is pasta and sauces. Please help fill our collection box to overflowing!

The Altar Flowers are sponsored to the Glory of God by Joyce Tritsch in memory of her father, Roy Simon.

In Worship Today:

Greeters: John & Karan Cehlar
Worship Assistant: Judy Sabolic
Acolyte: Josh Cannin
Head Usher: Joe Yurechko
Ushers: Sherie & Doug Cannin
Coffee Fellowship: Margie Trunzo
Young Disciples Leader: Sherie Cannin

In Worship Next Week – 4/14/24

Greeters: Bertie Palmiere; Virginia Mols
Worship Assistant: Bob Reimer
Acolyte: Jack Sacriponte
Head Usher: Ed Ward
Ushers: David Lundie; Brian Maderas
Coffee Fellowship: Madison Lewis
Young Disciples Leader: Brenda Neundorf



Important Dates

This Week:

* Today, April 7	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Adult Coffee and Conversation Sunday School Traditional Worship
* Mon., April 8	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM 6:30 – 9:00 PM 7:00 PM	EA AARP 12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library Bell Choir
* Tues., April 9	7:00 PM	Council via Zoom
* Wed., April 10	3:30 – 6:00 PM	St. Afterschool
* Sat., April 13	9:00 – 11:00 AM 7:30 PM	12 Step Group Three Rivers Ringers Concert

Coming Up:

* Sun., April 14 <i>Pastor Peter Asplin Preaching and Presiding</i>	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Adult Coffee and Conversation Sunday School Traditional Worship
* Mon., April 15	6:30 – 9:00 PM 7:00 PM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library Bell Choir
* Tues., April 16	5:00 PM	Private function in Miller Hall
* Wed., April 17	3:30 – 6:00 PM	St. Afterschool
* Sat., April 20	9:00 to 11:00 AM	12 Step Group
* Sun., April 21 <i>Bishop Kurt Kusserow Preaching and Presiding</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.

April is Arab American Heritage Month

We remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages, ethnic values, and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern neighbors and siblings in Christ. We ask God to bless and further the work, witness, and advocacy of Arab and Middle Eastern congregations and ministries, of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, and of the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage. Amen

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Linda Hoffman Charlett, ongoing prayers.

Jenny Baur, health concerns, (daughter of

Jan Burkhardt and daughter in law of

Jerry & Sherry Baur).

Jan Burkhardt, health concerns.

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

Nancy Cutler, health concerns.

Carl Dickson, recovering from a fall.

Marlene Gumbert, recovering at home after hospital stay.

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

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

Faith Musselwhite, in her duty as a city of Pittsburgh police officer.

Pastor Kimberly, ongoing health concerns.

Joe 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).

Dotty Sites, Redstone in Greensburg.

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

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

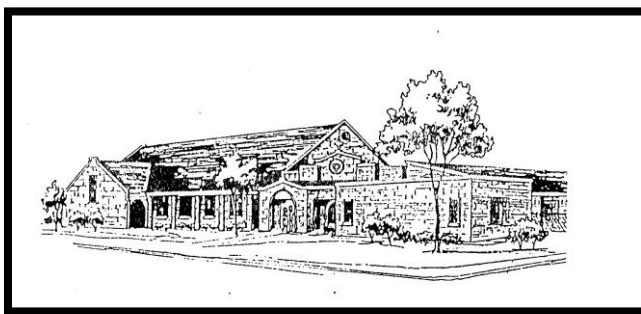
✝ We pray that peace can be restored to the people of Ukraine and Russia and to the Middle East.

✝ We pray for loved ones who are homebound, in care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Shirley Dickson; Sarah Haag; Sally, Marty and Samantha Kerchner; Ron Kramer; Dan McNamar; Ron Nerger; Craig Peterson; 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



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