



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422
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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Robert J. Powell

Tara Harvey, Oboe

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ “Good Christian Friends”

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.
 C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise ~ This Is the Feast

Refrain
Assisting minister



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



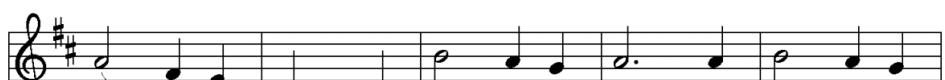
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

A: We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for is own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
Mu head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, 1650

Music: Michael Burkhardt

Gospel: John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is for the soprano voice, the middle staff is for the bass voice, and the bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The vocal parts are written in G clef, and the piano part is in F clef. The music is divided into three sections, each with a different melodic line and harmonic progression.

1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Apostles' Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need *especially*, the family of Nora, Monika, Thomas, Eleanor, Joe, Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Kate, Ed, Maria, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, as we challenge racism and hatred, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ “The Lamb”

Quartet

Little Lamb who made thee, dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life and bid thee feed, by the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice!

Little Lamb I'll tell thee, Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, he is mild, he became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.

Little Lamb God bless thee.

Text: William Blake, 1757-1827

Music: John Ferguson

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).
2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ “Freu dich sehr”

James Biery

Offertory Hymn~ “Signs and Wonders”



1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell-ing here;
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be-yond the gar - den wall:



thus does glo - ry shine at mid-night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.
beau - ti - ful the feet pro-ceed - ing with good news of death's de-feat - ing.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseautnes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Text © 2005 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ “Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -

vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.

Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in

rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - lwers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

Dismissal

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude~ “Allegro (from Sonata I in F Major)

Tara Harvey, Oboe

Benedetto Marcello

Additional music links:

“Shepherd Me, O God”
<https://youtu.be/YFqZGIZ5t80>

“Feed My Lambs”
<https://youtu.be/gGS8jBecJxg>

“No Dark Valley”
<https://youtu.be/-9gEb7UdBYI>

Assisting with Worship

Pastor	Pastor Rachel Manke
Director of Music	Lawrence Baker
Lector	Kierstin Capaldo
Quartet	Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen, Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler
Oboe	Tara Harvey

Announcements

-**Sunday Coffee Hour** via Zoom will take place the first Sunday of the month. The next one will be May 2 at 10 a.m. The Zoom link will be on our website.

-**Acme/Giant Gift Cards for Seminary** would be another great way to support the pantry for perishable goods. You can mail cards or drop off cards/cash to the office. Tuesday and Thursdays are the best days to come by the church office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Thank you! Mooyah! - Thank you to everyone who came out to Mooyah Tuesday night to support our St. John Nursery School. We saw a lot of familiar faces and ate some very tasty dinners.

Evangelism Regathers- We will have an Evangelism meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. If we have good weather, we will meet outdoors in the parking lot. If the weather is not cooperative, we'll meet on Zoom. The committee welcomes interested parties to join our discussion! Email Pastor Rachel to let her know of your interest so that we are able to share a Zoom link if necessary.

Outdoor Services - Save the dates! We'll be back in the Praise Lot for outdoor worship on May 9 and May 23. We thank you for your patience as we work out the kinks in our technology for streaming the service online.

