



Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

Katie Myers, Webmaster

Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator

Marcie Godby, Bookkeeper

Sue Klosterman, Church Office Assistant

pastorstjohnbluebell@gmail.com

lawrencebaker22@gmail.com

annlb609@gmail.com

carrie@stjohnsns.com

stjohnbluebell@gmail.com

stock825@comcast.net

stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com

stjohn1802@gmail.com

Our Council Members are listed on our website.

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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003832.

One License authorized user, number A-725585

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “He Comes to Us As One Unknown”

Thomas Keesecker

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: **help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

P: Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God’s mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: **Amen.**

Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

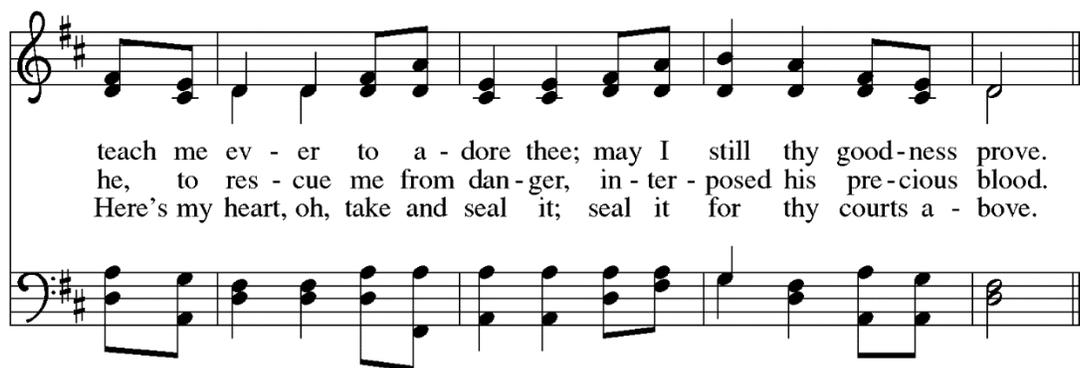
Hymn of Praise ~ "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

A: Thus says the Lord GOD:
I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

L: Let us read together the psalm.

L: It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

C: **to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

L: on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

C: **For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

L: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
C: **Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

L: they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
C: **that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice. Amen.**

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Baptism of Dean Thomas Delaney

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

Lector: I present Dean Thomas for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *him* among God's faithful people,
bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *his* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *this child* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support **Dean Thomas** and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Dean Thomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**You belong to Christ,
in whom you have been baptized.**

Alleluia.

Hymn of the Day ~ "Baptized and Set Free"



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. As a community we pray for the healing of George, Robert, Tim, Eleanor, Barry, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, this congregation and all we have belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians and our director of music, Lawrence. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place, the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Equipping God, sustain Dean Thomas as he joins the family of the faithful. Empower this congregation to support and uplift him in his life of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "'We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Duet - Judy Winship and Don Killian

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
To call on your when you are near, and seek where you are found.

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford

Music: Michael D. Costello

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, 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).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

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

Offertory Prayer

- P: Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
- C: **Amen.**

The Meal

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- P: 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,



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.
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.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

The meal is shared.

Communion Anthem~ "As This Broken Bread"

Duet - Judy Winship and Don Killian

As this broken bread was scattered upon the hills,
Scattered and was gathered together and made one,
so let your church, your holy church,
be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
your glorious kingdom.
For yours is the glory through Christ Jesus forever, Amen.

Text: 2nd century, from the *Didache*

Music: Wayne L. Wold

Benediction

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
‡ be upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Charles Callahan

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Singers

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Betty Jeanguenin

Judy Winship and Don Killian

Announcements

Weekly Outdoor Services will continue! We will be worshipping outdoors weekly in the Praise Lot at our "summer hour" of 9:30 a.m. Please bring a chair and continue to make use of space and masking for the benefit of our most vulnerable. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

Our first monthly food truck night is June 30! -Join us from 4-8 p.m. for the Roll M' Up truck, bring a chair. Please bring non-perishable food donations for Manna on Main Street. BYOB! Rain or shine. *Mark your calendars for July 29 and August 25 for our next two events!*

Spirit Walkers- The next Wednesday walk is June 16 at 10 a.m. at Wentz Run Park. Check our weekly emails to see the schedule and locations.

New Member Mentors- Are you interested in helping to welcome new members to St. John, to help them get connected? Let pastor know and we will add you to the list!

