



Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June 21, 2020

## Welcome to St. John

*We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting for the first time, we have a welcome gift for you. We also appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. Thank you for coming today!*

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, and we offer guidance for those visiting in the following pages underneath the heading “Communion Distribution.”

Our bulletin is all you will need for worship this morning. We have inserted helpful information in *italics* including when, if able, to stand and sit. Congregation responses are in **bold**.

Children are welcome at St. John. We have worship activity bags located at each sanctuary entrance. All children are encouraged to come forward during Children’s Time. Our parents of children are welcome to use the Family Room at any time during worship—it is located in the Nursery School wing (upstairs). The room is open for families to use as needed for their children. We also have a baby changing station in the restroom by the main office. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

Following our services, we will have beverages, cookies and conversation in our Great Room. We hope that you will join us and introduce yourself to others.

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

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*Our Council Members are listed on our website.*

*Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.*



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Wilt Thou Forgive”

Jonathan Oehler, Baritone

Wilt thou forgive the sin where I begun,  
which is my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run and  
do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I’ve won others to sin,  
and made my sin their door?  
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two,  
But wallow’d in a score?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I’ve spun my last thread  
I shall perish on the shore; swear by thyself,  
that at my death my Son shall shine as he shines now,  
and here to fore; and, having done, thou hast done, I fear no more.

*Music: John Hilton, 1599-1657*

*Text: John Donne, 1573-1631*

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

C: **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.  
We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.  
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.  
We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.  
We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn ~ This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

*Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901*

### Greeting

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

## Prayer of the Day

P: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## Children's Time

Ari Greyson

## Word

Psalm 69: 7-10, 16-18

Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

**I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.

**Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.

## Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

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

P: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’” So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf

for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Homily

*Silence for reflection follows the homily.*

## Hymn of the Day ~ “Our Father, We Have Wondered”



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all. the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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## Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we 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: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

A: Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Providing God, your creation shows us the power of life, make us aware of our impact on the life that is all around us. Guide us in our use and care of the creation that our efforts might be sustaining and renewing, restoring and rehabilitating. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Healing God, our world cries out for healing. Disease and dis-ease have spread across our land. Give us strength and courage to battle the corona virus and the racism virus. Help us heal the wounds of violence and hate. On this day, we pray for those on our Prayer List: Adina, Kathy, John, Eric Tom, Jack, Jon, Sharleen, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers, comfort those who have lost their fathers, comfort all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

## Anthem~ "Our Loving Father"

Jonathan Oehler, Baritone

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, for I am needy,  
preserve my soul, for I am Thine, O God.  
O Thou my Father, save Thy trusting servant,  
As unto Thee my daily prayer is offered,  
for Thou art good and ready to forgive, O God.

Like to the prodigal, this heart is longing  
to be at one with never-failing good, with God,  
like him who in a distant land was wandering, and finding  
neither lasting joy nor pleasure,  
awakened to himself and turned his thought toward home.

So ev'ry wanderer finds in God compassion,  
each prodigal the Father calls His son.  
Then let us all receive our Father's welcome,  
and find in Truth the freedom from all error,  
and from the thrall of sin forever-more to be free.

## 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](mailto: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~ “Softly and Tenderly”

Robert A. Hobby

## Offertory Hymn ~ “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling”

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

### **Refrain**

*"Come home, (Come home,)  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

## Offertory Prayer

- P: God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
- C: **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

## Benediction

- P: God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
- C: **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn ~ "O Jesus I Have Promised"

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

*Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.*

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Robert J. Powell

Additional music links:

“Oh, Happy Day”

[https://youtu.be/wv5n\\_eCGkvM](https://youtu.be/wv5n_eCGkvM)

“Like as a Father”

<https://youtu.be/VfWXsOiKApM>

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

<https://youtu.be/47SdcUHTQbA>

### Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor  
Director of Music  
Lectors  
Prayers of Intercession  
Apostles’ Creed  
Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers  
Lawrence Baker  
Phil and Hank Vande Berg  
Barry Stock  
Larry Smith  
Jonathan Oehler





