

Celebrating 250 years of Mission and Ministry

1769-2019



The Holy Trinity
Conclusion of the 250th Anniversary

June 7, 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 ~ "Praise Ye"

Trio- Jessica Lennick, Rob Laird, Jonathan Oehler

Praise ye, O praise and glorify. Praise ye the Lord Almighty.
Glorify the Lord Almighty, praise His holy name.

Prairie ye the Lord Almighty. Bless and adore His holy name.
Praise ye the Lord Jehovah, magnify, adore him,
Praise ye the Lord Jehovah, O magnify His name.

Music: Giuseppe Verdi

Text: Ovid Young (adapted from Psalms)

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 ~ **Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

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: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

First Reading: (based on Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a)

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." And God saw that it was good. ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; so God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day.

³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

Refrain (sung by ALL)

Refrain

Lord, O Lord your name is won-der-ful, _____ it is known the world a-
round. _____ You are seen in high-est heav - en, _____

1. I look to find the brightest star; I see the moon on high.
O God, I think how great you are; you care for every child.

Refrain

2. O Lord, you made the fish and sea, the birds high in the air;
the great big bear, the little bee, all creatures everywhere.

Refrain

3. O Lord, as you watch overall, as you love all your own,
so may we care for great and small, and love s you have shown.

Refrain

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

L: Paul writes: Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

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

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ **"Earth and All Stars"**

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Refrain

*God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!*

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: 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.**

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: God of community, you form us as your church. We are grateful for the 250 years of Gospel ministry that has been inspired by your Spirit at St. John Lutheran Church. We are grateful for members and leaders, for Sunday School teachers and musicians, for committees, for pastors; for special events and serving opportunities, for worship and Bible study, for fellowship and liturgical moments that connected us personally with one another and with your grace. Strengthen us to continue to be bold in our proclamation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God of creation, you called everything into being. We marvel at the work of your hands. We are in awe by the vastness of our universe. Our hearts are gladdened by the earth that you have given to us to inhabit and care for. Bless all efforts to sustain and restore our environment. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to come together in these times to attend to the health and welfare of their inhabitants. Instill wisdom and compassion in all who make difficult decisions. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering, all who are victims of prejudice and racism. Work with all of us in this nation to attend to the difficult work of addressing our past history of race and moving to a time when all can live with safety and dignity. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

A: Console, heal, and nourish all in need. We pray especially 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: God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. Grant us loving patience and kindness even as our hearts long to gather together in church, to gather around your Table of Grace. May we show our care for others as we emerge from our times of quarantine. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We offer prayers for the family of George Floyd and all those who mourn with them. 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~ "The Lord is Great"

Trio- Jessica Lennick, Rob Laird, Jonathan Oehler

The Lord is great, and great his might,
his glory lasts forever and for evermore.

Music: Franz Josef Haydn (from *The Creation*)

Text: Psalm 8, adapted

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~ "Reflection on Dennis"

Wayne L. Wold

Offertory Hymn ~ Blest Be the Tie that Binds



- 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.

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 ~ "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"

Come, join the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun—
the interweaving of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time
did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope,
made room within their dance.

Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death,
God rolls away the stone.

Come, speak aloud of Trinity,
as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost
to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death,
our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe
that we are free to move!

Within the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave,
by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life:
the dance of Trinity.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “The Dance of Trinity”

Michael Burkhardt

Additional music links:

Come All You People

<https://youtu.be/gAy9f1pjdYU>

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

<https://youtu.be/hqtt0R0elhQ>

Go Ye into the World

<https://youtu.be/HjDgG5tEs0A>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor
Director of Music
Lectors
Prayers of Intercession
Nicene Creed
Soloists

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers
Lawrence Baker
Patti Whitcomb and Dave Ochocki
Betty Jeanguenin
Pastor William Fluck
Jessica Lennick, Rob Laird, and Jonathan Oehler

