

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

# Welcome to St. John

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

[www.stjohnbluebell.org](http://www.stjohnbluebell.org) [www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell)

Nursery School website: [www.stjohnsns.com](http://www.stjohnsns.com)

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*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.

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## Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Since by Man Came Death”

Quartet

Since by man came death, since by man came death,  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, for as in Adam all die,  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:21

Music: G. F. Handel (from *Messiah*)

### Litany for Year of Pandemic

Remembering a year of grief, a year of sorrow, a year of uncertainty we pray,

**That all shall be well**

With hope on the horizon and the battle still raging we pray,

**That all shall be well**

We search for patience, we long for what was, still we know you were never far and we pray,

**That all shall be well**

Marking this year of pandemic, trusting in your faithfulness, we pray that all shall be well, and all shall be well,

**and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

C: **Amen.**

P: God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

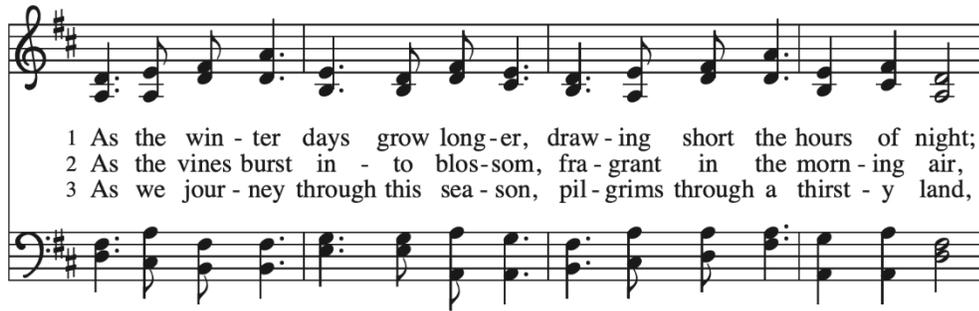
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

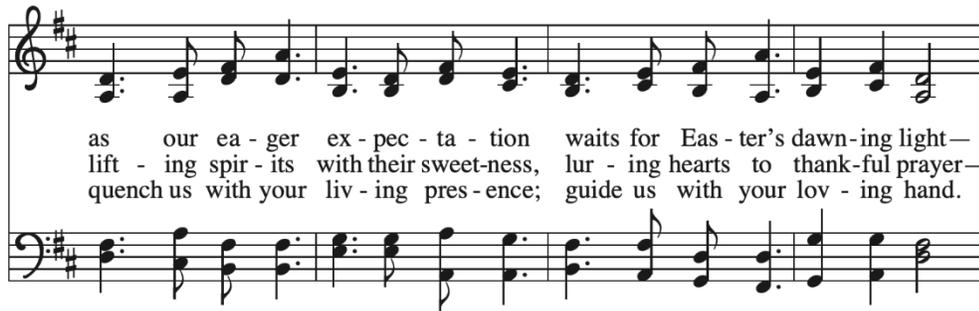
P: Beloved, God's word never fails.  
 The promise rests on grace:  
 by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
 the wisdom and power of God,  
 your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
 Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen.

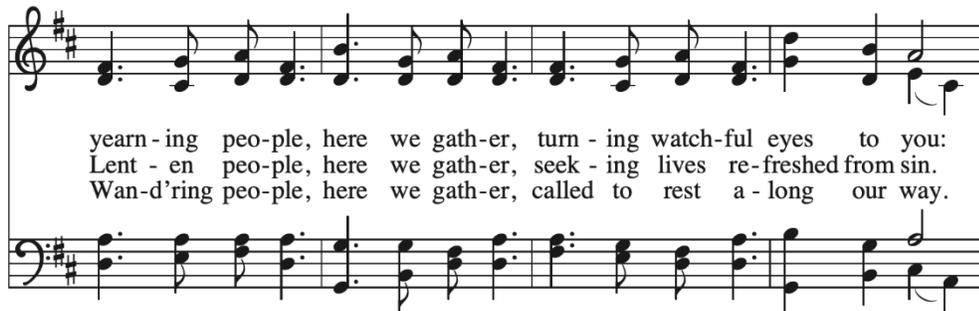
Gathering Hymn ~ "As the Winter Days Grow Longer"



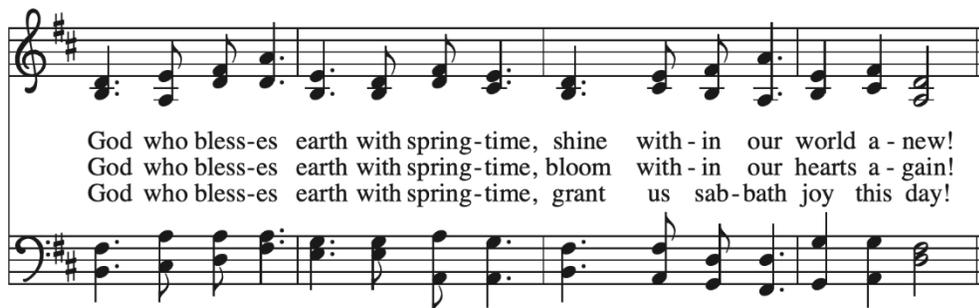
1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —  
 lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —  
 quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
 Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.  
 Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

## Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

## Kyrie

*Sung twice by all.*

*Refrain*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

## Prayer of the Day

P: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Children's Message

# Word

## First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

A: From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So, Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So, Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 107

### Refrain, sung by Cantor, then by ALL

Then in their trou - ble they cried to the LORD,  
and you de - liv - ered them from their dis - tress.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*  
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Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that  
God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,  
gath'ring them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

***Refrain***

Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.  
They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.  
Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord  
and you delivered them from their distress.  
You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to you,  
Lord, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.  
Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.  
*Refrain*

Gospel: John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

P: Jesus said: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

## Hymn of the Day ~ "God Loved the World"

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in

sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.

Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## 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: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine, drought and pandemic. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause harm. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. As a community we pray for Eleanor, Joe, Barry, Jean, Alethia, Martyne, Callen, 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. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: By grace we have been saved. May we celebrate that grace abundantly so that we might show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

A: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: American traditional  
Music: arr. Shaw/Parker

### 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.*

Offertory Hymn~ "That Priceless Grace"



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less  
2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less  
3 That pain - ful death, that pain - ful death, that pain - ful



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.  
blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.  
death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949  
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional  
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

P: Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger.  
Accompany us in this journey,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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:** You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C:** **Amen.**

# Sending Hymn~ “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Dismissal

- P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

Additional music links:

**“God Do Loved the World”**

<https://youtu.be/WX9rSY9yXo>

**“Amazing Grace”**

<https://youtu.be/CWWITAEHNkU>

**“A Lenten Love Song”**

<https://youtu.be/6TGfWYVoOHM>

### **Assisting with Worship**

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Betty Jeanguenin

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

### **Announcements**

-**Easter flowers** can be sponsored to beautify the altar for Easter. You can sign up on our website.

-**Mid-week Lenten devotions** take place each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Details are on our website.

-**Sunday Coffee Hour** via Zoom will take place the first Sunday of the month. The next one will be Easter Sunday at 8 a.m. The Zoom link will be on our website.

-**Family Game Night - Save the Date!**

In the past year we have learned how we cannot just do work but also have fun on Zoom!

Families are invited to a Family Game Night on **March 20th at 4 p.m. via Zoom!** We'll get to see each other, laugh, and have fun! Mark your calendars for the first day of Spring!

-**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.







