

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

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 ~ “Wash Me Thoroughly”

Duet- Deborah Swider
and Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me,
cleanse me from my sin.

Text: Psalm 51:2

Music: G. F. Handel

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.

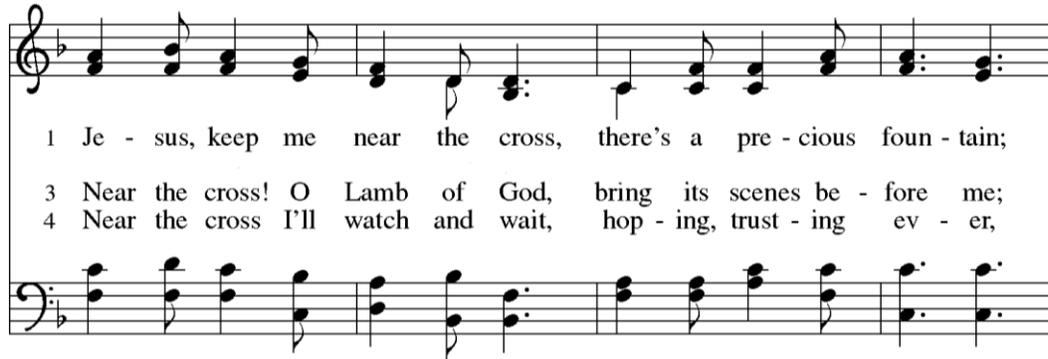
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 ~ "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

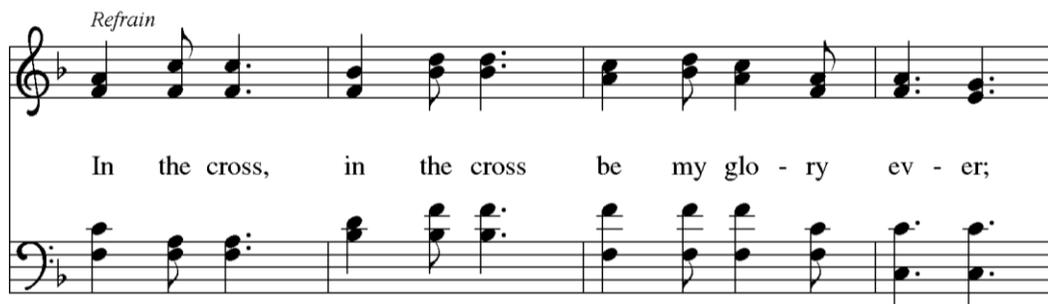


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Greeting

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

Kyrie

Leader | Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the Assembly. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." for the first two staves, and "Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." for the second two staves. The third staff is for the Leader and the fourth for the Assembly, with lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns with quarter and half notes.

Music: Plainsong

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51

Refrain, sung by Cantor, then by ALL

Psalm 51



The English translation of the psalm response from the *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music © 2001, John Schiavone. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion
wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me. **Refrain**

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **Refrain**

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you. **Refrain**

Gospel: John 12:20-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a

voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ "Seed That in Earth is Dying"



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

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 wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. 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: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. 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.

Anthem~ “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

Quartet

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest redeemer whom we love,
fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often, have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;
only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
may our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew;
till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)

Music: Franklin D. Ashdown

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.

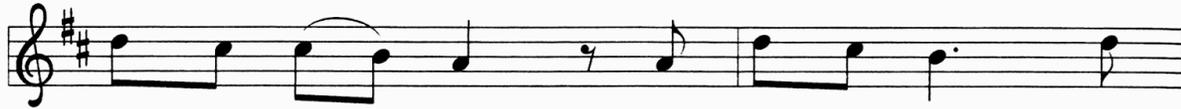
Voluntary~ “We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord”

Edwin Childs

Offertory Hymn~ "We Raise Our Hands to You"



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and blessing you be - stow are
3 Oh, make our bar - ren trees to grow, our



emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands to blos - som, and let our lives bring



give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
forth such fruit that heals our neigh - bor's grief and pain.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929

Music: Trond Kverno, b. 1945

Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

Music © 1978 Norsk Musikforlag

VI REKKER VÅRE HENDER FREM

8 5 8 8

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

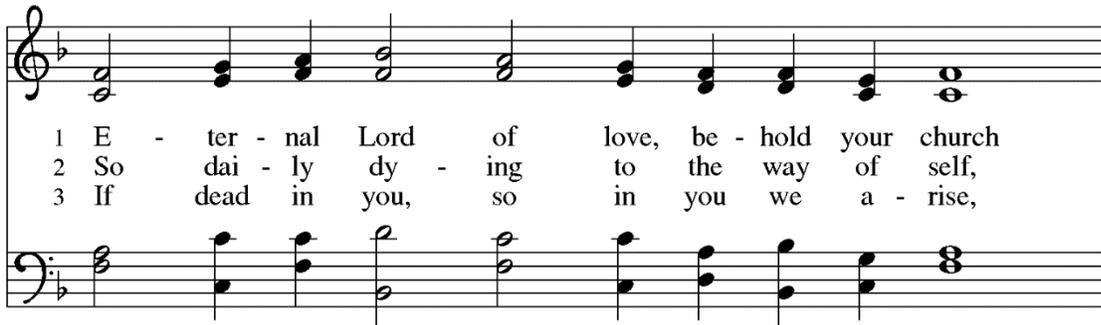
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

Benediction

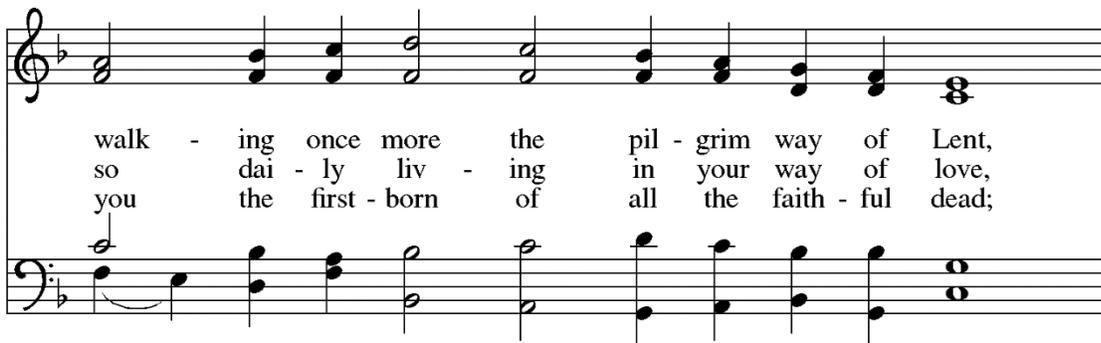
P: You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you † that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

Dismissal

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

Additional music links:

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

https://youtu.be/h2swPA_anhs

“What Wonderous Love is This”

<https://youtu.be/Cx7Om451wQg>

“Lamb of God”

<https://youtu.be/pDoI5P7EIW4>

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Samantha Posen

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.

