



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 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.

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www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell  
Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com  
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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 ~ "The Call"

Mary Hack, Mezzo-Soprano

Come, my way, my life: Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife; Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength: Such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length; Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart: Such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part; Such a heart as joys in love.

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*The assembly may rise.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn ~ Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

Hallelujah! Jesus lives!  
He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death  
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,  
bright forerunner to the skies  
of his people, yet to rise.

Jesus lives! Why do you weep?  
Why that sad and mournful sigh?  
Christ who died our brother here  
lives our brother still on high,  
lives forever to bestow  
blessings on his church below.

Hallelujah! Angels, sing!  
Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your chorus swell the strain  
which our feebler voices raise:  
Glory to our God above  
and on earth his peace and love!

## Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope,  
be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Children's Time

Phil & Hank Vande Berg

## Word

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

*Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.*

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of  
your name, lead me and guide me.

*Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.*

Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

*My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.*

Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

### Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

L: I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: John 14: 1-7

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

P: Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

## Homily

*Silence for reflection follows the homily.*

## Hymn of the Day ~ “For All the Faithful Women”

For all the faithful women  
who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given;  
to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness  
in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness,  
proclaimed your pow'r to save.

We praise the other Mary,  
who came at Easer dawn  
and near the tomb did tarry,  
but found her Lord was gone.  
As joyfully she saw him  
in resurrection light,  
may we by faith behold him,  
the day who ends all night.

For Eunice and for Lois,  
We sing our thanks and praise.  
Young Timothy they nurtured  
and led him in your ways.  
Raise up in ev'ry household  
true teachers of your word  
whose lives will bear clear witness  
to Christ, our risen Lord.

All praise to God the Father!  
All praise to God the Son!  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
who binds the church as one!  
With saints who went before us,  
with saints who witness still,  
We sing glad alleluias  
and strive to do your will.

## 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: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: O God, you have kindled a gift within us, may we be emboldened by your grace and mercy to give witness to the Good News that there is life, abundant life - everlasting life in your son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: Humble us, creator God, to understand our part in your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made. May our wonder and reverence motivate us to be good stewards, to live our lives in harmony with all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for the nations, their leaders and citizens, even as we are mindful of the many in our world who have no nation to call home, who are refugees because of warfare and terror, famine and catastrophe. We pray for all leaders called to guide the response to the coronavirus and its impact on all peoples.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

- A: God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sharleen, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. We give thanks especially for all who are tending to the sick and ailing in these times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- A: Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown us mothering care, for the women who have been examples of faith, for all the special women in our lives. We remember particularly all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- A: God our refuge, we commend ourselves into your redeeming care. We remember all those who lived their lives confident in your steadfast love and your promise of deliverance. We pray especially for the family of Eddy Markiewicz. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- A: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Peace

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

## Anthem~ "An Easter Greeting"

Mary Hack, Mezzo-Soprano

Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Tell it with a cheerful voice, Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Let the whole wide earth rejoice. Alleluia, alleluia,  
Death is conquered, we are free, Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Christ has won the victory.

For as in Adam all die, Even so in Christ shall all be made alive;  
I know that my redeemer liveth:  
The Lord is risen, The Lord is risen indeed.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, Tell it with a cheerful voice,  
Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
Let the whole wide earth rejoice.  
Alleluia, alleluia, Death is conquered, we are free,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Amen.

## 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~ “Jesu, Jesu ”

Ronald Nelson

## Offertory Hymn ~ Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*(Sung twice by All)*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

## Offertory Prayer

- P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- 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: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn ~ You Are the Way

You are the way; to you alone  
from sin and death we flee;  
all those who search for God, you find  
and by your grace set free.

You are the truth; your word alone  
true wisdom can impart;  
you only can inform the mind  
and purify the heart.

You are the life; the rending tomb  
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;  
and those who put their trust in you  
not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life;  
grant us that way to know,  
that truth to keep, that life to win,  
whose joys eternal flow.

*Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.*

## Dismissal

- P: Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude ~ “You Are the Way”

Mark Sedio

## Additional music links:

“The Call”

<https://youtu.be/vpgV5eBJDc>

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

<https://youtu.be/oLxB8V1IGz8>

“For All the Faithful Women”

<https://youtu.be/l4sedyD4-4>

## Assisting with Worship

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

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers  
Lawrence Baker  
Cailin & Adam Kiefski  
Carol Weidler  
Makayla Wood  
Mary Hack





