



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

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Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator
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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 ~ "Awake All Ye People"

Deborah Swider, Soprano

Awake all ye people, for now ye are free,
your Saviour has risen from the dead,
your Saviour lives, your Saviour lives.
He hath destroyed the last enemy.
For God hath put all things under his feet.
Your God is Life and All in all.
Your God is Life and All in all, and All in all.

If ye then be risen, be risen with Christ,
then seek ye those things which are above,
which are above, which are above.
Set not your affections on things on the earth,
But set your affections on things above.
Your life is hid with Christ in God,
Your life is hid with Christ in God, with Christ in God.

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20, 26-28

Music: Johann Ludwig Bach

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 ~ **Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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 and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 Time

Vince Bruno

Word

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.
**Our God has kept us among the living
I has not allowed our feet to slip.**
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
**You brought us into the net;
I laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**
You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**
those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**
Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**
If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading: Acts 17: 22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

L: Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

P: Jesus said to the disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ “Come Down O Love Divine”

Come down, O Love divine;
seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Oh, let it freely burn,
till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace
till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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: Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church to give witness to your grace that we have experienced in our lives. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

- A: You are the creator of heaven and earth. Inspire us to be your stewards caring for our environment. We pray especially for the precious gift of water – may we tend to oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: You call all people of the world your children. Your children are suffering with distress and stress caused by warfare and famine, violence and disease and, in these last days, upheaval caused by the coronavirus. Give wisdom to leaders, show mercy to the suffering, grant courage to those giving aid grant us all a heart for justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: You come near to us when we need healing. Our nation still needs healing from the disease of racism – help us see one another as your children, made in your image. We pray for healing all those who are sick, those in the hospital, those recovering or rehabilitating, those giving them care. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List ... John, Fred, Eric Tom, Jack, Jon, Sharleen, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and those imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. 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~ "If God Be for Us"

Deborah Swider, Soprano

If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth?
It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,
who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

Text: Romans 8: 31, 33-34

Music: G. F. Handel (from Messiah)

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~ "Thy Holy Wings"

Mark Sedio

Offertory Hymn ~ "Thy Holy Wings"

Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.

Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903

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 ~ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Dismissal

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude ~ "Flourish on *Hyfrydol*"

Jacob B. Weber

Additional music links:

<https://youtu.be/ihhHn6rfrDo>

If Ye Love Me

<https://youtu.be/egEZA0irWGM>

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart

<https://youtu.be/rHKye0hckR8>

Peace I Leave with You

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Barbara Tornetta

Barbara Speece

Aurora Simmer

Deborah Swider

