



Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension of Our Lord
May 24, 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

Staff:

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers, Bridge Pastor
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
Vincent Bruno, Youth & Family Director
Sue Klosterman, Church Office Assistant

wittsgm@gmail.com
lawrencebaker22@gmail.com
annlb609@gmail.com
carrie@stjohnsns.com
stjohnbluebell@gmail.com
stock825@comcast.net
stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com
stjohn1802youth@gmail.com
stjohn1802@gmail.com

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 ~ “Jesus, My All, to Heaven is Gone”

Rob Laird, Tenor

Jesus, my all, to heav'n is gone,
I'll never turn back no more;
He whom I fix my hopes upon,
I'll never turn back no more. No more, no more, no more my Lord;
I'll never turn back no more.

His path I see, and I'll pursue, I'll never turn back no more;
The narrow way, till him I view,
I'll never turn back no more. No more, no more, no more my Lord;
I'll never turn back no more.
Jesus, my all, to heav'n is gone, I'll never turn back no more.

Text: John Cennick, 1718-1755

Music: K. Lee Scott

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 ~ Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

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: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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

Word

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds.

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
M is that name, rejoice before God!**

In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God
of Sinai,**

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

Second Reading: Acts 1: 6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 24: 44-53

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. Luke.

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

P: Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so, stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ "Lord You Give the Great Commission"

Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:

Refrain

*With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.*

Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: ***Refrain***

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: ***Refrain***

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: Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place, especially for the congregations struggling due to the pandemic. Free our hearts and minds to focus on the ministry we share in your name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in all you have made. Teach us humility and respect for our home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Visit us in these days that we may work for justice, peace, understanding and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression, prejudice, and violence rule no more. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

- A: Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day: 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. Stand by and support all those who give aid and care, comfort and healing. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: Gentle God, you guide us as we seek wisdom. We pray for teachers, professors, day care workers, those charged with teaching; we pray for student of all ages, especially seniors, whose learning and teaching, schooling and education has been disrupted in these past months. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: Infinite God, your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed especially Dawson Deck. 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~ "O Clap Your Hands"

Rob Laird, Tenor

O clap your hands, all ye people;
Shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible;
He is a great King over all the earth.
For God is the King of all the earth.
Sing praises to God, sing ye praises unto our King.

Text: Psalm 47:1-2, 5-7
Music: Lee Dengler

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~ "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

Robert J. Powell

Offertory Hymn ~ Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 ~ "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal

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

Postlude ~ *“Lasst uus erfreun”*

Thomas Gieschen

Additional music links:

O Clap Your Hands

<https://youtu.be/oinhRp67cf8>

Come Away to the Skies

<https://youtu.be/V7HQeT5ZKLk>

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!

<https://youtu.be/rI-nTy0iHmU>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Audrey Pyle

Phil Vande Berg

Sam Posen

Rob Laird

