



Day of Pentecost

May 31, 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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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 Lone, Wild Bird"

Jenni Collins, Soprano

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with thee,
nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine! I rest in thee, Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in they hand,
the sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am thine! I rest in thee, Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.
The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.

Text: Henry Richard McFadyen, 1877-1964

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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 ~ God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!

God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!

God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!

Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**

There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

L: When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 20: 19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

P: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Creator Spirit, heav'nly dove,
descend upon us from above;
with graces manifold restore
your creatures as they were before.

To you, the Comforter, we cry;
to you, the gift of God most high,
true fount of life, the fire of love,
the soul's anointing from above.

In you, with graces sevenfold,
we God's almighty hand behold;
while you with tongues of fire proclaim
to all the world God's holy name.

Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *Connor*, one with us in the body of Christ, who is making public affirmation of *his* baptism.

Connor's family: We present *Connor Czincila*, who *desires* to make public affirmation of *his* baptism.

P: Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for *this brother*,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called *him* to yourself,
enlightened *him* with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished *him* in the community of faith.
Uphold your *servant* in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Connor: I renounce them.

P: Now. Let all of us, join with Connor in reciting our faith, as we answer three questions:

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

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Affirmation

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Connor: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support *Connor* and pray for *him* in his life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in *Connor* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us rejoice with this brother in Christ.

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

P: We welcome you into the fellowship of St. John as a confirmed member of the congregation.

Conner: Thanks be to God.

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: We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for the unique congregations to which we have been called. May we use the diverse gifts present in your church, to reveal your deeds of power and love accomplished in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We call on your spirit that breathes life into your creation, to inspire us to live and save and care and nurture with a mind of the fragility and complexity of our environment. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice, compassion and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for those suffering with the corona virus. We pray for those on our Prayer list: Adina, 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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We call on your spirit of community. We are grateful for all the technologies that have helped us stay connected. We lament how guidelines have kept us apart from loved ones and friends, especially during challenging times. Guide all of us, looking forward to times of being closer together, to have patience and respect for the welfare of our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life in you. We pray for the family of Dawson Deck in their time of mourning. 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~ "My Heart Ever Faithful"

Jenni Collins, Soprano

My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful,
thy Jesus is near!
Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining,
my Jesus is here!

Text: Christiane von Ziegler

Music: J. S. Bach (from Cantata 68 for Pentecost)

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~ "O Living Breath of God"

Franklin Ashdown

Offertory Hymn ~ O Living Breath of God



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

Offertory Prayer

- P:** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
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: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Today's closing hymn "O Day Full of Grace" is an effort of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. 960 singers, 364 instrumentalists have contributed to this Pentecost hymn. You are invited to add your voice. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJETTbBnf6w&feature=youtu.be>

Sending Hymn ~ "O Day Full of Grace"

O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.

O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.

For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.

God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.

When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

*Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ "O Day Full of Grace"

Franklin Ashdown

Additional music links:

Spirit in the Wind

<https://youtu.be/dtcwT2AP7mc>

The Church's One Foundation

<https://youtu.be/2ECY2lleRq8>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Nick Czincila

Paige Czincila

Congregation

Jenni Collins

