



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

10 a.m.

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

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Pastor Rachel Manke

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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.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Albert Zabel

Bell Quartet

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Greeting

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

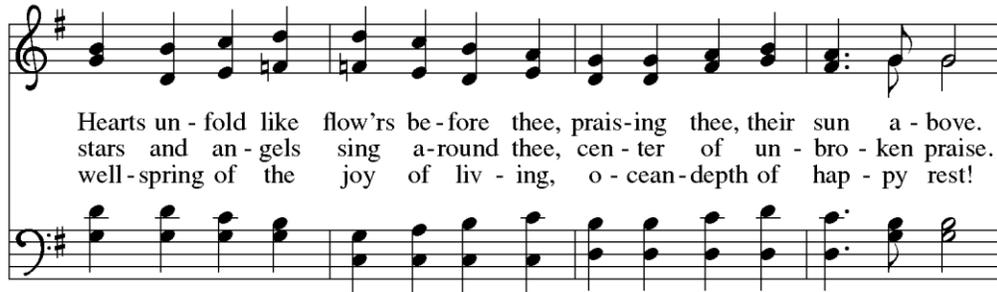
C: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise ~ "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

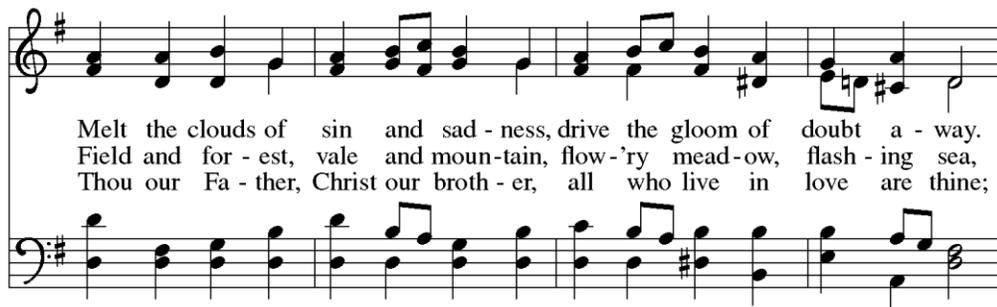
(Sung by All)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; 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 Message

Word

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

A: While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So, he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Response~ "I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness"

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Tenor

I will sing new songs of gladness,
I will sing Jehovah's praises upon the ten-stringed psaltery.

Ev'ry day will I extol thee and will bless thy name forever;
I will bless thy holy name,

Great art thou and great thy mercy,
who shall tell of thy endless power? Who shall thy might declare?

My song shall be of praise and honor and of thy glorious acts.
The works of thy hand are wonderful, past our knowing.
Then all shall sing of thy great kindness and of thy wond'rous might,
and my voice shall proclaim thy great glory!

Text: Psalm 145:1-7

Music: Antonin Dvorak (from *Biblical Songs*)

Gospel: John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

P: Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly may be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

(Sung by All)

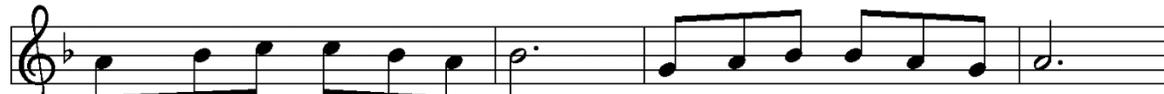
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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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: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering *especially*, Tim, Monika, Thomas, Eleanor, Barry, Jean, Kate, Ed, Cheryl, Susan, John, Jenny, Scott, John, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sue, Lauren, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Laura, and Donna. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: God who heals the nations, send resources, helping hands and grace to developing countries struggling greatly with Covid-19, we pray especially for the people of India. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "The Call"

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Tenor

Come, my way, my truth, 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.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: K. Lee Scott

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, 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).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying
holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

The meal is shared.

Communion Anthem~ “Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord”
Bell Quartet

James Kimball

Benediction

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude~ “On Our Way Rejoicing”

Bell Quartet

James Kimball

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lectors

Bell Quartet

Soloist

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Andrea and Arianna Greyson

Mary Ellen Scheffey, Betsy Norton

Barbara Welther, Don Killian

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky

Announcements

Outdoor Services - Save the date! We will be back in the Praise Lot for outdoor worship on May 23 at 10 a.m.

Walking in the Spirit- We're looking to start a walking group. Interested? Join Pastor at 10 am at Wentz Run Park near the tennis courts on Wednesday, May 19 for a group walk and chat.

Mooyah Update- Carrie wrote, "With the money raised through this fundraiser, the nursery school was able to purchase an airplane teeter totter to replace some of the playground equipment that broke recently. The airplane took its maiden voyage this week and was a huge hit! Thank you all. We are truly grateful to be able to give this great gift to our students!"

Show Off Your Skills- Are you strong? Do you like picking things up and putting them down? Great! We are looking to form a regular team of helping hands to setup our outdoor worship services this summer. With enough hands it's easy work. Arrive an hour/half hour before worship to help and scope out a great seat for the service. Contact Pastor to let her know you want IN!

Prayer List Updates- It is a gift that we are able to pray in community for our own and our loved ones. We are looking to update our prayer list to make sure it's consistent with current needs. If you have a loved one on the prayer list right now and wish for them to remain so, please contact Sue in the office. Otherwise, in the next week or two we will remove what seem to be older requests. As always, you can have us add new concerns. Please contact Sue with the name of the person (first and last, please be sure they are ok with being listed) and what we are praying for. If you include contact info our faithful card-senders would be able to send cheer in an envelope as well.

-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.

