

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 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 ~ “Creator, Open Our Hearts”

Quartet

Creator, open our hearts to peace and healing between all people.
Creator, open our hearts to provide and protect for all children of the earth.
Creator, open our hearts to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of earth.
Creator, open our hearts to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.
Thank you for the gifts of this day and ev’ry day.

Music: Andrew Birling

Text: Native American Micmac

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
 and through his death and resurrection,
 Christ has made us his own.
 Hear the truth that God proclaims:
 Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
 Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
 to do God's work in the world.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ "Arise, My Soul, Arise!"



1 A - rise, my soul, a - rise! Stretch forth to things e - ter - nal
 2 Now hear the harps of heav'n! Oh, hear the song vic - to - rious,



and has - ten to the feet of your re - deem - er God,
 the nev - er - end - ing an - them sound - ing through the sky!



who, hid from mor - tal eyes, yet dwells in light su - per - nal;
 To mor - tals is not giv'n to join in strains so glo - rious;



so wor - ship God in hum - ble - ness, your sov - 'reign Lord.
 yet here on earth we too can sing our prais - es high!



The ban - quet of love a - waits you a - bove;
Christ bought with his blood the ran - somed of God;



yet here you have a fore - taste of the feast to come!
to him be ev - er - last - ing pow'r and vic - to - ry.



Re - joice, my soul, re - joice, to heav'n lift up your voice:
And let the great a - men re - sound through heav'n a - gain.



1, 2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johan Kahl, 1721–1746; Finnish tr. *Halullisten Sjelujen Hengelliset Laulut*, 1790; English tr. Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.
Music: NYTYLÖS, SIELUNI, Finnish folk tune
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 23

Quartet

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Text: Ps. 23

Music: Thomas Matthews

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

A: My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

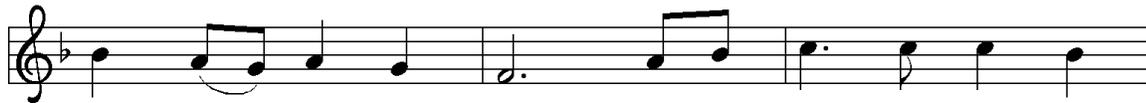
Hymn of the Day ~ "All Are Welcome"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to embrace your boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Healing God, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List: Susan, John, Martin, Jenny, Scott, Lisa, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Healing God, as we have learned that our President and his wife have contacted the coronavirus, we are reminded that we face difficult medical and social challenges these days. As we pray for their recovery, we pray for all those infected with the virus; we pray for all those suffering with their symptoms or after affects; we pray for all those families who have lost a loved one to the virus; we pray for all those who have been separated from loved ones because of the coronavirus.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Anthem~ "Rejoice in the Lord Alway"

Quartet

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all; the Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing, but in ev'ry thing by prayer's and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God.

And the peace of God which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and mind through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music: Henry Purcell

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

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~ “Intermezzo”

Flor Peeters

Offertory Hymn ~ “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

(Sung twice by All)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community

Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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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: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
Re - joice! Re - joice!

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Michael Burkhardt

Additional music links:

“Sing for Joy and Clap Your Hands”

<https://youtu.be/PFJ3V-9yZn4>

“Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele” (BWV 654)

<https://youtu.be/6lkaAu9BC9I>

“We Are Called”

<https://youtu.be/rZtPYS76ZMA>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Betsy Norton

Mary Ellen Scheffey

Barry and Rita Stock

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,

Robert Laird, and Jonathan Oehler

