



Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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

Ringíng of the Bell

Prelude~ “Songs of Praise”

Susan Geschke

Handbell Choir

Confession of Sins

[As part of our confession, I will speak words of confession and will invite your response: “Forgive us, renew us and lead us.”]

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves –

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving 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 Message

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

P: Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Apostles' Creed

A: *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 [“Each petition ends with the phrase, “Lord, in your mercy...”, please respond with “hear our prayer”.]

A: As we commemorate the Reformation this year, we do so in a time of pandemic. With the ecumenical and global family, we bring our prayers for healing. And we join with our sisters and brothers of other communions in joint service to the neighbor, in restraint and vigilance, and in shared witness. Let us now pray for the world, the church and all those in need...
God of life, heal painful memories, transform complacency and indifference. Turn us to you and one another. Inspire and sustain our ecumenical journey from conflict to communion. Help us understand ourselves as branches on the one vine, Jesus Christ as you nurture within and among us the communion rooted in your love. Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer!

A: God creator, all creation groans in expectation, convert us from exploitation. Teach us to live in harmony with your creation. Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer!

A: God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the identity barriers that divide, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Bring peace in this world, in all nations and states, in all cities and towns, in all villages and communities. Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer!

A: God, our healer, come to our aid as COVID-19 continues to spread, heal those who are sick, protect families and friends from being infected. Support those in public health and medical services. We pray especially for all on our Prayer List: Cheryl, 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,
Hear our prayer!

A: God of justice, hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil and every form of oppression and greed. Protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Give new life to all. Show us your mercy!
Hear our prayer!

A: God of mercy, strengthen and protect those who are persecuted for faith in you and those of other faiths who suffer persecution. Give us the courage to profess our faith.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer!

A: Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, all who have worked for the reform and the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,
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.
Amen.

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "Like A River Glorious"

Douglas Wagner

Handbell Choir

Blessing of the Quilts

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.

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.**

Holy Communion

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

**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.**

Words of Institution

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.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Eating the meal, Hearing the Words

*The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.
The blood of Christ, shed for you, take and drink.*

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
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.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Finale on A Mighty Fortress"

Margaret Tucker

Handbell Choir

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Jessica Brunner Knoble

Diane Stein

Don Killian

