

**Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
10:45 a.m.**



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
North Versailles, Pennsylvania

A Place for Everyone



*A Reconciling in Christ congregation
of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor



Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church!

We are happy to have you with us today!

- You will find the entire worship service printed on the following pages. Words spoken or sung by the people are **in bold type**. Explanations of the structure and content of the service are *written like this*. Large print bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby).
- When asked to stand, please do so only as you are able and comfortable.
- **At St. John's, we practice an open table for communion.** All who seek God from any tradition or denomination are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer to have a blessing instead of communion, come forward and cross your arms over your chest or ask the pastor for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you have an alcohol sensitivity you may receive bread alone or take a cup of grape juice from the small wooden stand on the bell table. If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.
- **Children are always a welcome part of worship** at St. John's, and the "Sermon for Young Disciples" is especially for them. You are invited to send (or bring) little ones to the front of the sanctuary at the appropriate time. Children's bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby) providing activities based on today's scripture readings.
- If you need to step out of the sanctuary with your child(ren) during worship, please know that you will still be able to hear the service from the **Narthex** (lobby). If you wish, you may also make use of the un-staffed **Nursery Room**, where you can also hear the service. You and your child can also use the **Prayground** which is in the front of the church on the left (streetside). There are drawing materials, quiet toys, and seats for children and adults.
- St. John's records and shares our worship services as a ministry to those who are unable to join us in person. Please be aware that videography, livestreaming, and other **recording** may be in progress during this service, and that we sometimes feature photos of church activities on our website and social media.
- **Hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher to enhance your worship experience.

*Worship begins
with a chance to
prepare our
hearts and
minds to
encounter God.
Turn off your
electronic
devices and
bring your
conversations to
an end.*

*Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024 10:45 a.m.*

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is Risen!

(a joyful shout) **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Quietly center your heart and mind for worship.*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We visit the tomb very early in the morning.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Remember what Jesus told you before he died. He must be handed over to sinners and be crucified.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here. He has been raised from the dead. Peace be with you!

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

*We stand,
as able.*



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.

*We turn to face
the processional
cross
continually
facing it on its
way to the front
of the church.*



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re - turns to life once more;
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

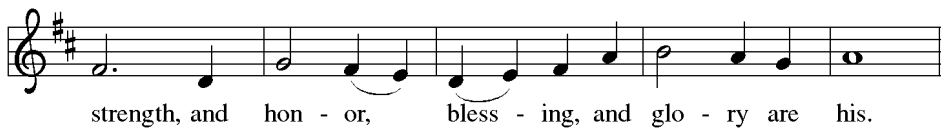
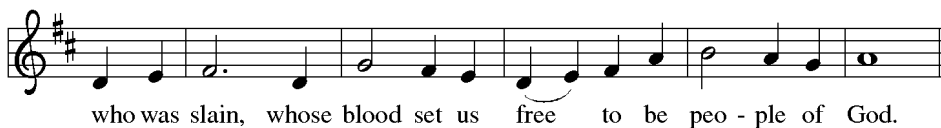
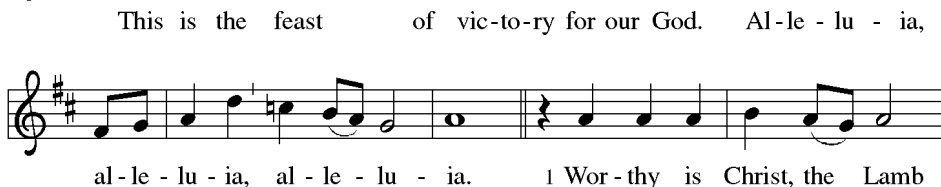
The apostle Paul concluded his second letter to the Corinthians (13:13) with this Trinitarian greeting. His other letters contain similar greetings.

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF Praise

We sing praises along with the heavenly host around the throne of God with words from the Revelation to John.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

After the prayer, we sit.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

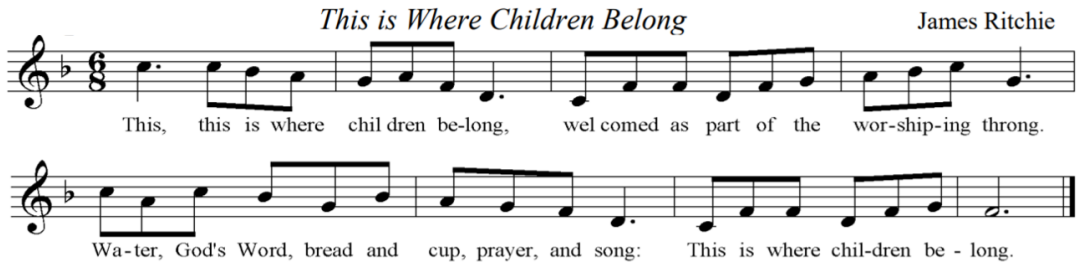
Christ Arose!

Arr. By Cynthia Dobrinski

SERMON FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sherie Cannin

This is Where Children Belong James Ritchie



This, this is where chil dren be-long, wel comed as part of the wor-ship-ing throng.
Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Read responsively.

We recite one of the ancient scriptures found in the Bible.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,**

“God's mercy endures forever.”

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,

and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.


The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We stand as if
to welcome
Jesus himself
into our midst
for the reading
of the gospel,
a message of
good news from
Jesus.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O LORD.

*The resurrection
of Jesus is
announced, and
the response is
one of terror
and amazement.*

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

We stand,
as able.



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

NICENE CREED

Throughout history, Christians have presented the basic beliefs of the church in documents called creeds.

We respond to the good news presented in the scriptures and sermon by reciting one of the church's creeds, proclaiming our faith in the God who creates us, saves us, and makes us to be holy people.

We pray about what is happening in the world.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*John Donne,
poet, died 1631*

*After finishing
his education at
Oxford
University,
Donne seemed
headed for a
career in the
English public
service. But a
series of
circumstances
led him into the
ordained
ministry. He is
well known as a
writer of both
secular and
sacred poetry.*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

We kneel as able, or sit. A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death, especially those we name before you now...

We remember John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

Preparing for receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we make sure there are no disagreements or grudges within the gathered group.

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Fellowship Pads and Offering

During the offering, we pass the fellowship pad to each person in the pew. Print your name and check the appropriate blocks, especially if communing. As the pad returns to its place by the center aisle, note the names of other worshippers, and greet them after the service.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Acclamation for Easter”

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

We stand and sing a song of joy and hope as the congregation's gifts to God are brought forward including bread and wine that we will share in Holy Communion.

*We stand as
able.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

*The pastor leads
us in singing or
speaking these
joyful words.*

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,
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:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

This song which combines words sung by angels in heaven and words sung about Jesus on earth, is based upon Isaiah 6: 3 and Matthew 21:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor offers thanks for the many ways God has blessed us throughout history.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

After describing God at work through history we use words spoken by Jesus at the last supper that he had with his disciples.

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.

*In the meantime
we are reminded
that we are
called to work
and make God's
will a reality in
our world.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Jesus teaches
this prayer to his
disciples in
chapter six of
Matthew's
gospel.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All who seek God and a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. Extend your hands if you wish to receive, and keep your hands folded if you want only a blessing.

Parents should indicate if the children receive.

Communion is distributed by intinction. Come forward by the center aisle.

Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available.

After receiving the wafer, you may dip it partially into the wine before eating it.

You may eat just the wafer as Christ is fully present in each element.

Let an usher know of your need for communion to be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONGS

During the distribution we sing “Lamb of God” and hymn ELW 482.

The witness of John the Baptist in John 1:29 becomes our witness and prayer as we receive Jesus in the communion meal.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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TABLE BLESSING

*We stand as
 able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
 you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚ bless you now and always. **Amen.**



Amen
amen
amen

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

*In preparation
for departure,
we turn as the
cross is carried
past us and face
the back of the
church.*



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED

OUR SERVICE BEGINS

*Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the narthex
to welcome guests and to visit with one another.*

The Paschal Candle burns at all Services during the Easter Season (40 days until Ascension Day) and thereafter lit at baptisms and funerals. This is a constant reminder of the gift of **NEW LIFE**, made available to us through Baptism into the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Easter, being the greatest festival of the Church, is celebrated not for a day or a week, but for a week of weeks - seven weeks! Throughout these “Great Fifty Days” we continue to celebrate the Resurrection in a special way, and we begin to see how it affects all parts of our lives. We are witnesses of the Resurrection, and our lives show forth the Lord’s victory.

Pictures needed! We are looking for pictures of St. John’s sanctuary that includes the windows BEFORE the current stained glass windows were installed. The time frame would be somewhere between 1967 to January 1972. If you snapped a photo of a baptism, first communion or even a wedding that includes the original windows let the office or Pastor Kimberly know.

Coffee & Conversation: In April, the Coffee & Conversation group begins a journey into God’s Word through ‘Exploring the Psalms: Getting to know God and Ourselves’. This video series features Christian singer-songwriter Sandra McCracken, with each session focusing on a single psalm. A related song, performed by Sandra, further explores the psalm. Coffee, snacks, and interesting conversation always provided!

Crafting Event: Not to be confused with the ‘Craft Group’, Sarah Haag is offering Shadow Box Class on Wednesday, April 3 from 7:00 to 9:00. She will lead us in making an art shadow box! There are 3 designs to choose from (samples are in the narthex). The cost of the class is \$30 which is to cover the cost of materials. No experience needed! If interested, take a registration form from the poster in the narthex and select your design!

Three Rivers Ringers: On Saturday, April 13, St. John’s is hosting the Three Rivers Ringers - Pittsburgh’s premier community handbell ensemble. The Three Rivers Ringers will present a concert beginning at 7:30 and promises to be beautiful! The TRR will hold a clinic with our bell ringers in the afternoon and then return in the evening to entertain us. Plan to join us for an evening filled with beautiful music!

Help Needed: A friend of St. John’s needs help with respite care for her mother, who lives in East McKeesport. She is looking for someone to keep her mother company when needed on a flexible basis – no set schedule. If you are interested, contact the office.

2024 Stewardship Focus: The focus of Stewardship for 2024 is “An Attitude of Gratitude.” Each month we’ll offer you a different question about gratitude to prompt you to think about gratitude in a variety of ways. You might want to keep a gratitude journal for the year, or a simple paper with each answer for each month. For **March**, our question is: **“Think about the beauty of ordinary**

moments you appreciate in life. Describe how they keep you grounded”. Note your thoughts in a place that you’ll be able to find next month when we highlight the next question.

MA’s Pantry Items: The Mission Outreach committee is reminding you to include items for MA’s Pantry each time you do your own food shopping. The distribution dates for April are 4/6 and 4/20, and the request for April is pasta and sauces. Please help fill our collection box to overflowing!

In Worship Today:

Greeters: Sandy Smith; Joyce Tritsch

Worship Assistant: Bob Reimer

Acolyte: Jack Sacriponte

Head Usher: Ed Ward

Ushers: Cindy & Rick Luke

Coffee Fellowship: Heather Thomas

Young Disciples Leader: Sherie Cannin

In Worship Next Week – 4/7/24

Greeters: John & Karan Cehlar

Worship Assistant: Marlene Gumbert

Acolyte: Josh Cannin

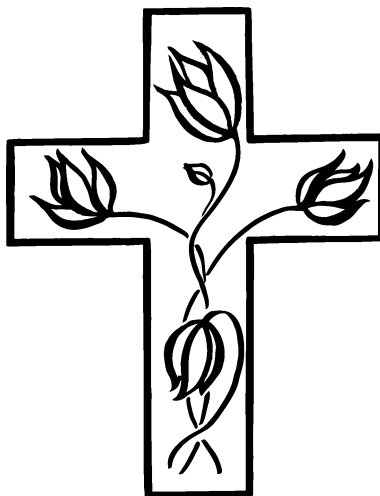
Head Usher: Joe Yurechko

Ushers: Sherie & Doug Cannin

Coffee Fellowship: Margie Trunzo

Young Disciples Leader: TBD

*Thank you to St. John’s very own Easter Bunnies, Robert & Marti Gastel
of Dorothy’s Candies in White Oak!
They delivered yummy chocolate treats that are waiting for us at the
door as we leave worship today!*



Important Dates

This Week:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| * Today, March 31
<i>Easter</i> | 9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Easter Breakfast and Activities
Festival Service |
| * Mon., April 1 | Office Closed
6:30 – 9:00 PM | 12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library |
| * Tues., April 2 | 4:30 – 6:30
6:30 PM | Craft Group
Game Night |
| * Wed., April 3 | 3:30 – 6:00 PM
7:00 – 9:00 PM | St. Afterschool
Craft Class |
| * Sat., April 6 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM | 12 Step Group |

Coming Up:

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| * Sun., April 7 | 9:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Adult Coffee and Conversation
Sunday School
Traditional Worship |
| * Mon., April 8 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
6:30 – 9:00 PM
7:00 PM | EA AARP
12 Step Group – Miller Hall, Library
Bell Choir |
| * Tues., April 9 | 7:00 PM | Council via Zoom |
| * Wed., April 10 | 3:30 – 6:00 PM | St. Afterschool |
| * Sat., April 13 | 7:30 PM | Three Rivers Ringers Concert |
| * Sun., April 14 | 9:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM | Adult Coffee and Conversation
Sunday School
Traditional Worship |

We Remember in Our Prayers

You are invited to use this page in your devotion and prayer time.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

Easter Sunday

Praise God that sin, fear and death have no control over us — Jesus Christ has risen for the redemption and healing of humanity! “Christ is living! Gone with sorrow! Tears and terror, be no more” (*All Creation Sings* 934).

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Linda Hoffman Charlett, ongoing prayers.

Jenny Baur, health concerns, (daughter of Jan Burkhart and daughter in law of Jerry & Sherry Baur).

Jan Burkhart, health concerns.

Carol, health concerns, (Ruthie Smith’s sister).

Nancy Cutler, health concerns.

Carl Dickson, recovering from a fall.

Marlene Gumbert, recovering at home after hospital stay.

Stephen Kennedy, recovering from cancer surgery, (cousin of Judi Rogers).

Kimmy, health concerns, (grand-niece of Ruthie Smith).

Faith Musselwhite, in her duty as a city of Pittsburgh police officer.

Pastor Kimberly, ongoing health concerns.

Joe Lundie, recovering from surgery.

Janean Miller, breast cancer, (sister-in-law of Justin Felt).

Karen Mitchell, breast cancer, (cousin of Judy Sabolic).

Clara Panzic, health concerns, (Ruthie Smith’s sister).

Dotty Sites, Redstone in Greensburg.

Tanya, health concerns, (friend of Ruthie Smith).

Dutchie Wojtowicz, recovering at her son’s following hospital stay.

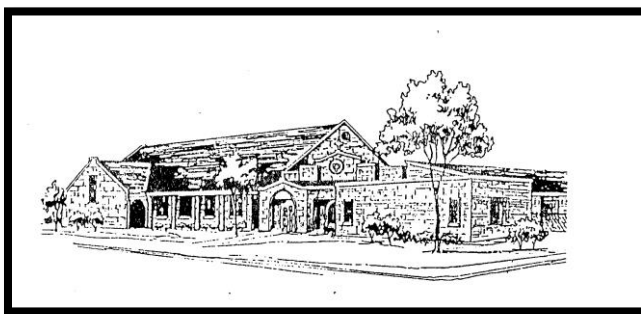
✠ We pray that peace can be restored to the people of Ukraine and Russia and to the Middle East.

✠ We pray for loved ones who are homebound, in care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Shirley Dickson; Sarah Haag; Sally, Marty and Samantha Kerchner; Ron Kramer; Dan McNamar; Ron Nerger; Craig Peterson; Ruthie Smith; Fran Thompson; Lew Thompson; Ed Ward; Janice Winkles; Joy Young; Edith Zoric.

✠ We pray for ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; SWPA Synod Bishop Kurt Kusserow, and the synod staff.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

To have friends or loved ones placed on the prayer list, contact the church office by email or phone; complete the blue prayer list form found on the table in the lobby; or complete the form on the website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com. If appropriate, include a brief reason and relationship. This list is cleared and updated monthly.



**St. John's Lutheran Church exists
to nurture people of all ages
on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ,
to support those in need,
and to reach out into the community
with God's healing and love.**



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor

kgreway@stjohnsnorthversailles.com 412-267-7753 cell

Debra Maurizi – Church Secretary

Derek Schofield – Director of Music

Ryan Seymour - Custodian



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office@stjohnsnorthversailles.com

For more information, please visit our website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stjohnnorthversailles

Alleluia

He is

Risen