

"As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

- John: 17:18-19

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 12, 2024

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411 Mars, PA 16046-0411 www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you in worship this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin. If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own?

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

A **playroom** is available on the lower level by the elevator for children who need a break from the worship service. The service is livestreamed in this room. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the upper level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

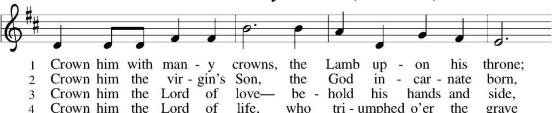
PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855)



4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own. whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn; rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save. cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub-lime.





and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty. the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem. but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys-ter - ies so bright. who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die. thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us!

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning, you created us in your image and placed 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 river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

In your baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, We give you thanks, O God for in these waters, you promise welcome, forgiveness, and life everlasting, and you claim us as your beloved children.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Alleluia!

*Kyrie



*THIS IS THE FEAST



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from Acts.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

A reading from 1 John.

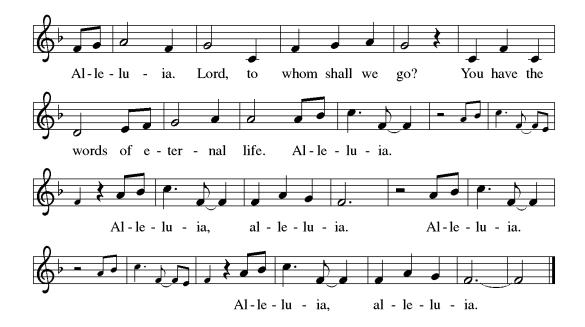
⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 17:6-19

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] 6"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (ELW 392)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

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.

11

*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. *A brief silence*.

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your Spirit lives within us. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers and mother figures in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith. Inspire us by their witness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we carry in our hearts joys and concerns known only to you. We bring to you all that weighs us down and celebrate in you all that lifts us up. We offer the prayer we bring into this space on this day (*blue prayer cards are read*) and all the prayers we do not yet have the words to speak. 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

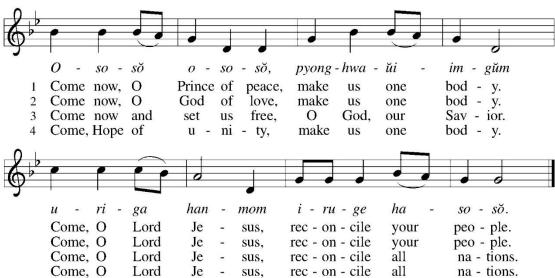
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)

Rise on verse 4



*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, strengthened by the gifts of your meal of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

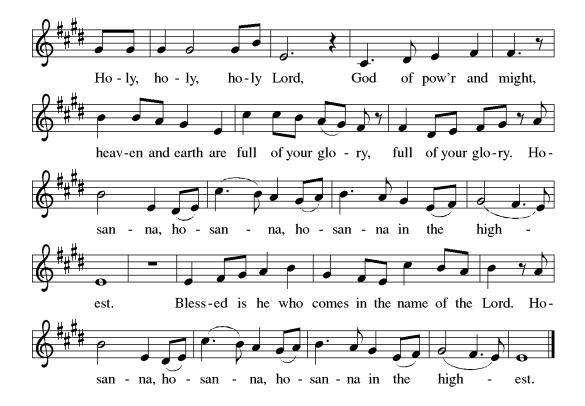
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is the majesty of your glory.

Alleluia!

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.

Alleluia!

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

Alleluia!

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 mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Alleluia! Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

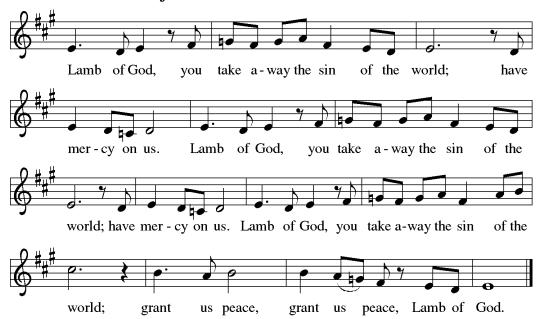
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

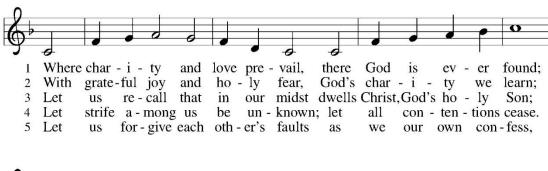
Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)





*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

*BLESSING

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

Amen.

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.

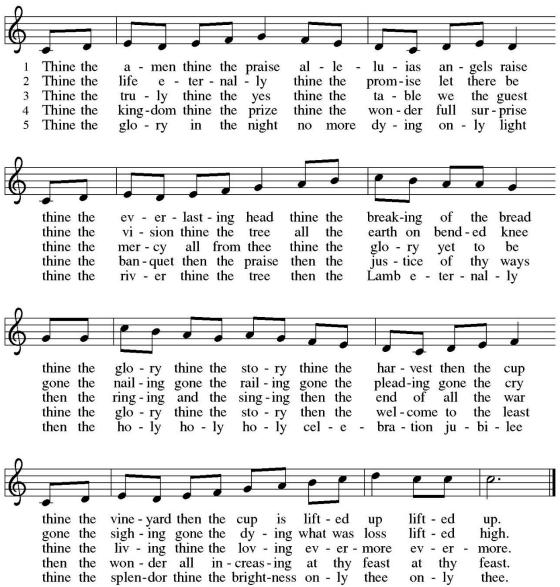
Amen.

May the God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

→ bless you now and always.

Alleluia! Amen.

*SENDING SONG Thine the Amen (ELW 826)



*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today are in honor of Denise Hager and Carol Weaver offered by Erin & Jamie Weaver for Mother's Day.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Jonathan Ciora

Acolyte: Abby C.

Ushers: Missy Kramer Greeters: Miller Family

Offering: Ava N. & Emma N.

Attendance last week: 66 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

Today's Music

Crown Him with Many Crowns. Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4, Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893. Public Domain.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus. Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt., Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887. Public Domain.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace. Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope, Music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947. Geonyong Lee.

Where Charity and Love Prevail. Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842. World Library Publications, a divisioin of GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Thine the Amen. Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009, Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021. Augsburg Fortress.

Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Next Week's Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Life to dry bones
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth
Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Christ sends the Spirit of truth