

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome on this third Sunday of our Lenten Journey. The first three weeks of Lent emphasize self examination, repenting for those things we regret, and finding willingness to face those sins or weaknesses we have tried to deny. This is the time when the scripture and the pastor's message may cause us to feel uncomfortable with ourselves personally or ourselves as an element of our current society, "that sinful generation."

Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Lent. Called "Laetere Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday." It marks a turning point, half way through Lent. We continue attention to Lenten practices and are strengthened in our discipline as we begin to see around the bend to the light of the Resurrection. This 4th Sunday is also the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day so come to rejoice that Christ came not to condemn but to save and bring us freedom and joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, My eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;

The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land,
The ver - y dy - ing form of one Who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of his face;

A home with - in a wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, Two won - ders I con - fess:
Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,

From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And bur - dens of the day.
The won - der of his glo - rious love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all, the cross.

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

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

C **And also with you.**

***KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN of PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The peace is shared

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison) found in Celebrate**



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. Ⓒ And al - so with you.

LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from Exodus 20:1-17

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 19 ~ *with response*

The psalm is announced, organ plays response 1x, cantor or pastor sings 1x, people join to sing response, then as psalm is read, congregation sings response at each R.

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Ⓒ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter.

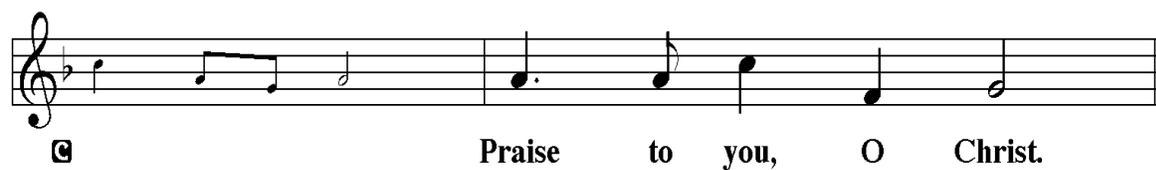


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



Praise to you, O Christ.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

MESSAGE

*HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered stanzas. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, From the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

RAITHBUN
87 87

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence

***THE PEACE ~** You may greet others with a sign of peace - a wave or a slight
bow with hand over your heart and the words "Peace of Christ or Peace be with
you!"

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The peace is shared

OFFERING ~ (please leave your gifts in one of the offering plates **at the end of the front and back pews** (Mechanic St. side) on your way out, or if you are worshipping from the back parking lot you may leave them - in the box by the outside basement steps)

***OFFERTORY**



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?



I will of-fer the sac-ri- fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the



name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal- va- tion and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the



pres-ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*** PREFACE for LENT**

P It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and Everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and mind we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

G 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.

P 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P 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

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion:

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you;

C Amen. [Please open and take the wafer]

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen. [Please open and take the juice]

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen**

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

*HYMN

Lift High the Cross

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

*DISMISSAL

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123
Organist: Seulki Susie Yoo
Congregational Song Leaders: Reba Harmon and Ed Bilich
Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org
St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.

Our Vision Statement

To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.

Today

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

Next Sunday, March 14

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Sandra Metz

Please remember in prayer ~ Zachary Fultz, Ron Fultz, Pastor Ken Longfield, Vivian Plank, Fred Hagemeyer, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz) and Carol Yoder (VVH).

FROM the PASTOR

Join the **National Lutheran Choir** and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers, for a FREE virtual program blending spoken reflections, songs and familiar hymns of joy and hope with new music that speaks to our present time, inviting all people of faith to sing in joy *together!* Sunday, March 14 at 5 p.m. at NLCA.com *This online presentation is FREE for all. For a Virtual Subscription to exclusive content (\$10/month), visit NLCA.com*
You are invited to sing along or listen to the National Lutheran choir in the Sanctuary Sunday, March 14 at 5PM on the big screen. Let's connect with Singers across the country joining together to praise God.

Rev. Robertson tries to set aside Friday and Saturday as Sabbath rest and service prep. Calls and emails are welcome but are likely to be responded to more quickly Monday - Thursday. Schedule will flex to accommodate pastoral requests, funerals, events, appointments and meetings, however, the following schedule will be a guideline.

Monday will be focused on St. Johns - in the office at least 11AM - 2 or more.

(note Monday Mar 1 pastor had to meet with a family regarding a funeral)

Tuesday - shared for bulletin prep between the two congregations.

Weds - denominational commitments, meetings and pastoral concerns.

Thursday - focused on West Kish - in the office or working at home 9:30 - 12:30 or more.

Camp Mount Luther's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors and golfers. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. If you can help, please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellow Church Members,

My sincere thanks to those who recently remembered me with the church altar flowers. Also, to those who prepare, record and deliver the bulletin and CD each week. I am grateful to be able to listen to the service each Sunday. Your prayers and concerns are greatly appreciated.

*Thank you,
Edna Chester*

A heartfelt thank you to John and Brenda Boring for the delicious Stuffed Pepper Soup they prepared for the congregation. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is appreciated by everyone you blessed with this meal.

A special thanks to the council members who provided the fruit and other goodies for the congregational meeting. A lot of work was put into making sure everyone felt comfortable attending. Thank you for going the extra mile!

In the narthex are Committee and Sunday morning duty sign-up (April) sheets. Volunteers are needed to help lay read, greet and deliver altar flowers. We are also looking for someone to help lead the congregational singing during worship. This is helpful to those who attend in the parking lot.

Please prayerfully consider serving, if you are able. Jesus came to serve and we serve God by following His example.

SINGLE & PARENTING, a program that offers practical help and hope to single parents, will begin at the Lumina on E. Third Street, Lewistown kicking off Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The program is scheduled to run 6:00-7:30 PM each Wednesday evening through May 26, 2021. At a SINGLE & PARENTING group, parents participate in video seminars and small group discussions that explain how to wisely encourage their kids to obey, how to help their hurting child(ren), how to eliminate debt, how to deal with verbal onslaughts, and how to figure out what their emotions are telling them. All single parents are invited to attend. For more information, call or text Ann Kanagy at 717-437-4946. Childcare is available.

The church's email address has changed. Please begin using secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org when contacting the office.

January 1 thru March 4, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 32 Offering ~ \$ 2,035.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 35,369.62 Expense \$ 29,632.87

Net Income \$ 5,736.75

Daycare ~ Income \$ 31,747.85 Expense \$ 45,466.08

Net Income \$ -13,718.23