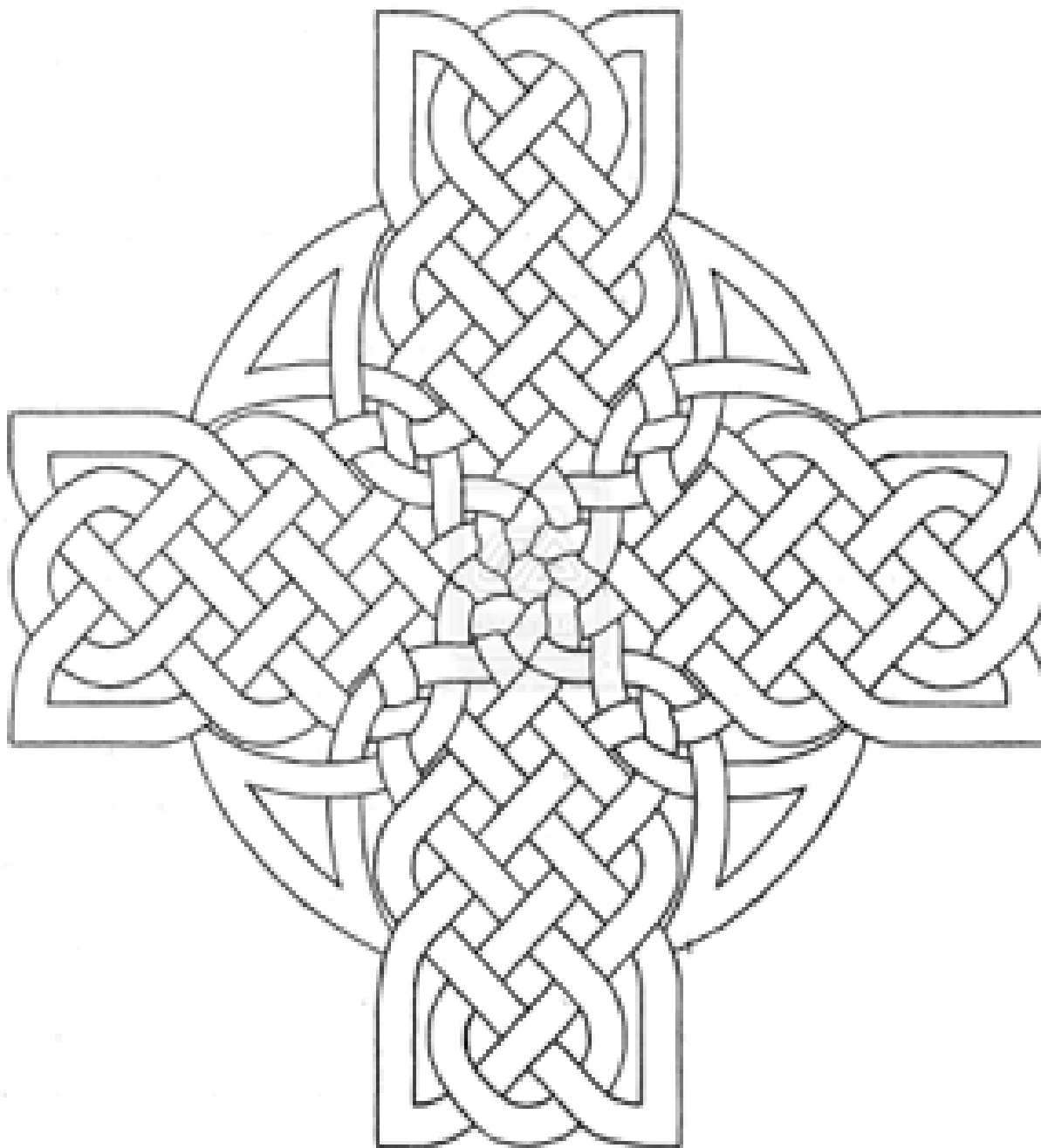


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

PRELUDE WELCOME

Welcome to all here in the sanctuary, in the parking lot and at home on this 4th Sunday of Lent. Today, is often called “Laetere Sunday” or “Rejoice Sunday.” It marks a turning point, half way through Lent. We rejoice in our commitment to walking with Christ through our Lenten practices of doing with less, giving more, leaning on the Word, and learning to know ourselves. As we turn a corner in our journey today we pray for protection from evil and look expectantly to the light of Easter Resurrection.

This 4th Sunday is also the Sunday before St. Patrick’s Day so we rejoice in the Celtic affirmation that Christ came not to condemn but to save and bring us freedom and joy. Part of our liturgy today is derived from early Christian Celtic worship and prayers of St. Patrick.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 448

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each with four lines of text. The chords are indicated by letters above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, F, Dm, F, Am, F, Bb, F, Dm, F, C7, F.

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re-lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
Word my hope se- cures; He will my shield and

now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

NEW BRITAIN
CM

***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**

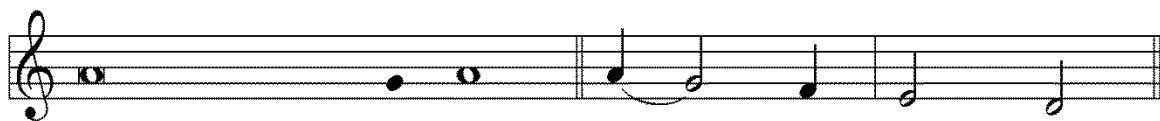
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,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

C **Amen**

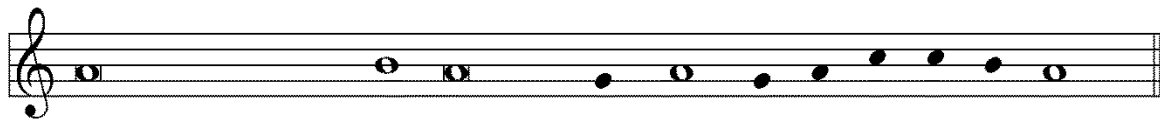
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***KYRIE**



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



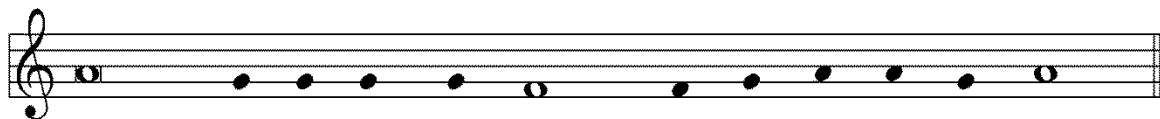
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



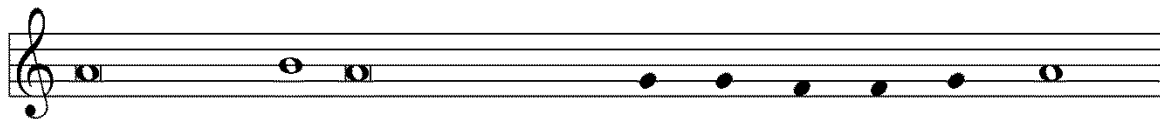
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



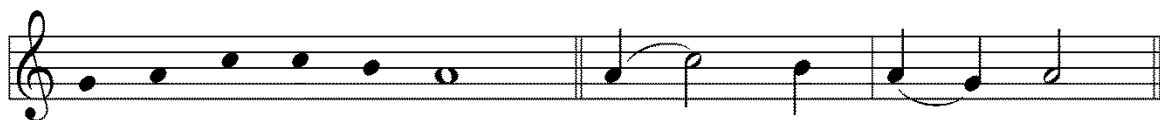
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



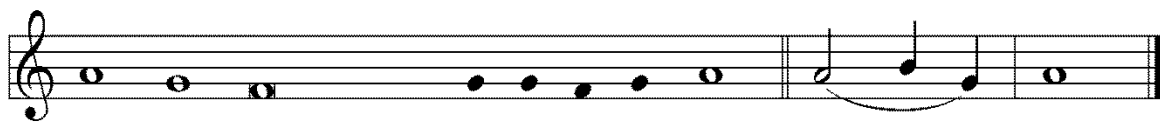
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



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

*THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Father of joy,
The peace of the Christ arisen
The peace of the Spirit of grace,
C **To ourselves and to our children,
To ourselves and all God's children.**
P The Peace of Christ be with you.
C **And also with you.**

(You may greet others with a sign of peace - a wave and the words "Peace of Christ or Peace be with you!")

*HYMN of PRAISE

- A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Spoken in Unison
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the
Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

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



LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from Numbers 21:4-9

after the reading

- R The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 ~ 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 Ephesians 2:1-10

after the reading

- R The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

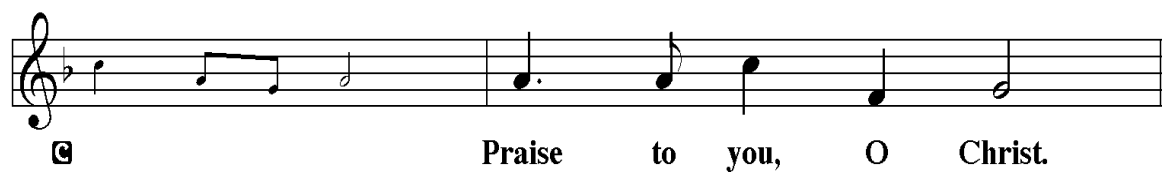
***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.



The Gospel is read. After the reading
P The Gospel of the Lord



MESSAGE ~ Lenten Journey Week 4

479

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 trust re-move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

OLIVET
 664 6664

***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**

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**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***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

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

St. Patrick's Breastplate: Prayer of Protection ~ *spoken in unison

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

***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**

***BLESSING (*An Irish Blessing*)**

P May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always on your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May you be held in the palm of God's hand.

C Amen

302

I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS Irregular with refrain

Sydney Carter, 1963

American Shaker melody
Harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the
2. I danced for the scribe and the
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I
4. I danced on a Fri - day when the
5. They cut Me down and I

world was be - gun, And I danced in the moon and the
Phar - i - see, But they would not dance and they
cured the lame; The ho - ly peo - ple
sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the
leap up high; I am the life that will

stars and the sun, And I came down from heav - en and I
would not fol - low Me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they
dev - il on your back. They bur - ied My bod - y and they
nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Continued on next page



danced on the earth; At Beth - le - hem I had My birth.
 James and John; They came with Me and the dance went on.
 hung Me high, And left Me there on a cross to die.
 thought I'd gone: But I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

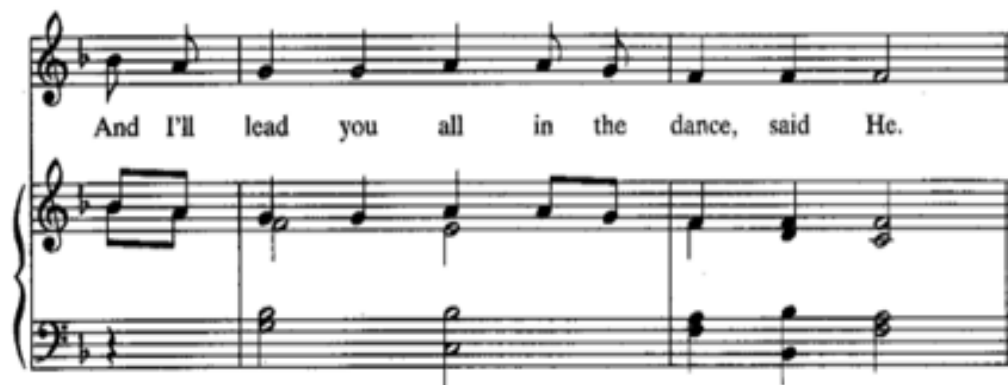
Refrain



Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



Dance, said He, And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,



And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

***DISMISSAL**

P May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord's countenance shine upon you and give you peace.
Go in Peace to 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@stjohnsbelleveille.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:** Sandra Metz

Next Sunday, March 21

Greeter: Sandra Metz; **Lay Reader:** John Chester

Please remember in prayer ~ Miriam Williamson, Zachary Fultz, Ron Fultz, Vivian Plank, 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.

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

Included in the newsletter was a form to place Easter flowers. Extras can be found in the narthex. **Please be sure to turn it in by Sunday, March 28.**

The daycare is selling *raffle calendars* as a fundraiser. Cost is \$10. You have a chance to win a nice selection of cash, gift cards and prizes, beginning April 1 through the 30th. Descriptions of, along with pictures of the donated items are included on each calendar. All the prizes were donated by local businesses and members of our community.

The daily drawings are being posted on the daycare Facebook page, and winners will be contacted by phone.

If you would like to purchase one, please see a member of the Daycare Committee (Joy Byler, Deb French, Carol Fultz or Michele Harshbarger) following the service this morning. They can also be picked up at the church office through the week.

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.

January 1 thru March 11, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 32 Offering ~ \$ 1,780.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 41,663.04* Expense \$ 32,203.09

Net Income \$ 9,459.95

*St. John's received \$5,000.00 as a gift from the Diddy Cleck Estate

Daycare ~ Income \$ 36,681.15 Expense \$ 45,486.22

Net Income \$ -8,805.07

Area Mifflin County Churches Present



**AN OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING
LED BY RANDY FRENCH & FRIENDS**

**Enjoy a worship service filled with prayer,
stories, and beloved hymns!**

**Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 E. Third Street, Lewistown**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021
6PM IN THE SANCTUARY**
or join us online at the Hope Collective FB page

*In-person guests are asked to wear a mask and
social distance.*