

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021

PLEASE NOTE ~ at the March 11 meeting, Council agreed to begin using hymnals once again. For the time being, they will be used for the hymns only.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome to all here in the sanctuary, in the parking lot and at home on this 5th Sunday of Lent.

We're just a week before the celebration of the first Palm Sunday when the momentum of Christ's ministry brings people shouting Hosannas in the street while others whisper condemnations. In our Lenten journey we may stand at a crossroads not knowing which way to turn, looking for a map through the wilderness when our GPS fails, praying to the Holy Spirit to guide our way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN ~ "Glory Be to Jesus" verses 1, 2 and 3**

LBW # 95

***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

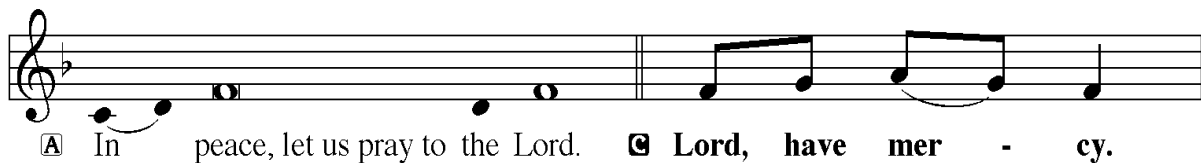
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,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

C Amen

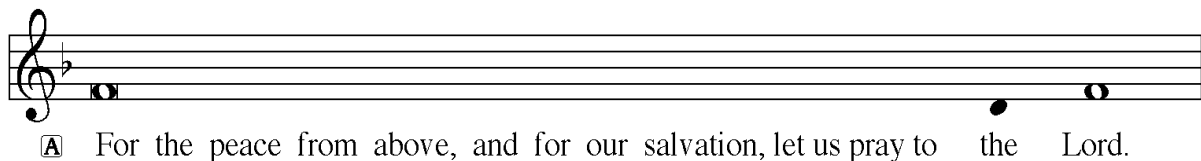
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

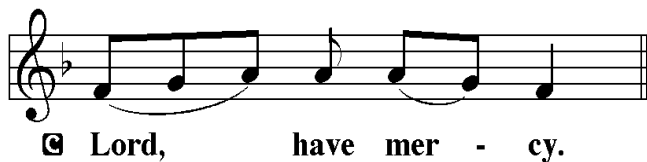
***KYRIE**



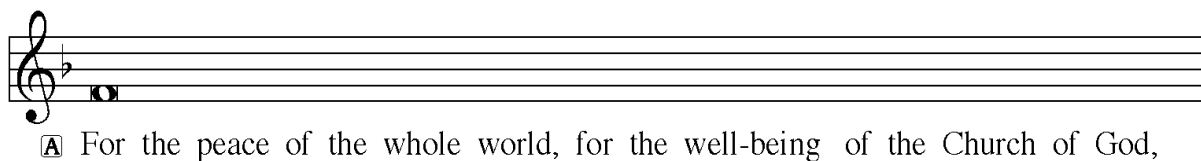
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



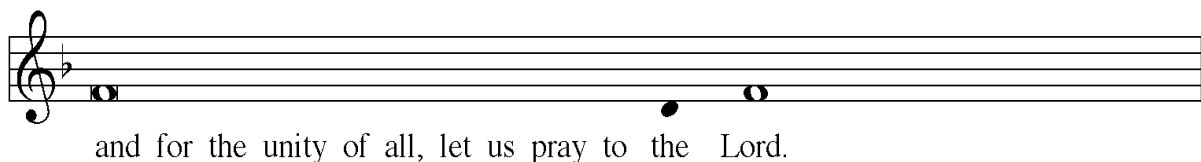
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



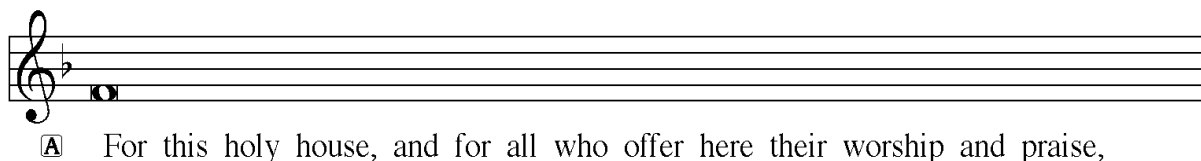
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



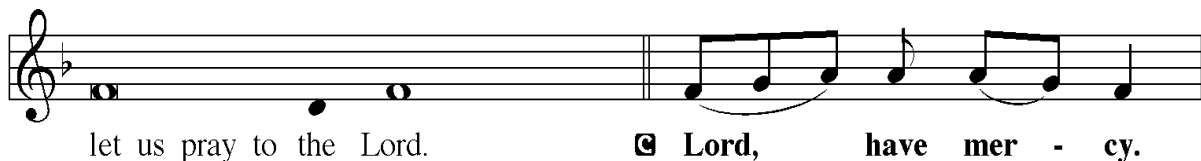
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



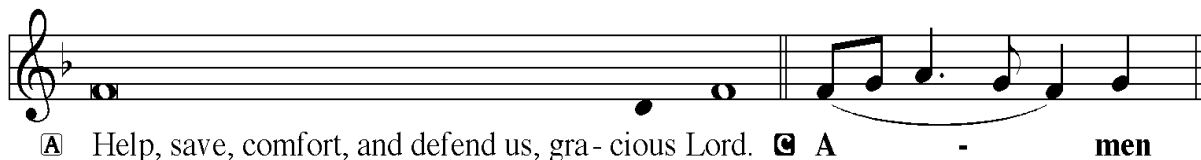
G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

***HYMN of PRAISE**

P 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.

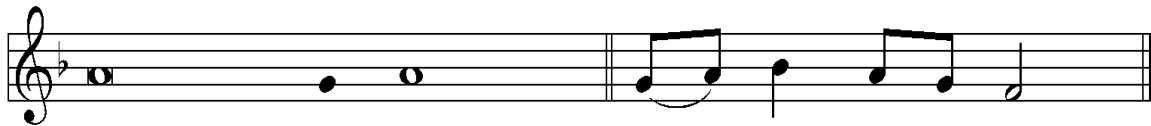
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

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**



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from Jeremiah 31:31-34

after the reading

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

*Psalm 51:1-12 ~ *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 Hebrews 5:5-10

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,

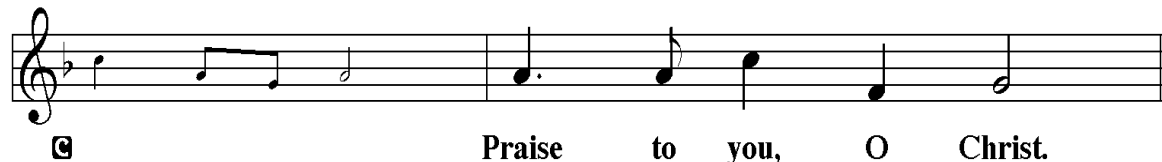


slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.



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



MESSAGE

*HYMN ~ “Glory Be to Jesus” *verses 4, 5 and 6*

LBW # 95

Installation/Reaffirmation of Council Officers/Members

*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**



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,



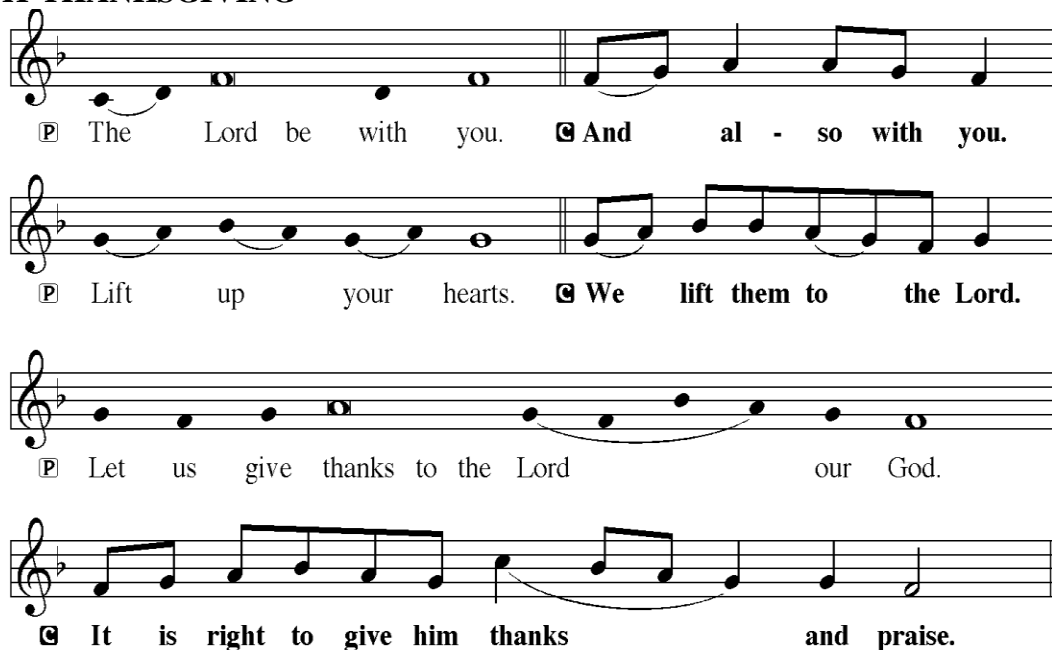
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

***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



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

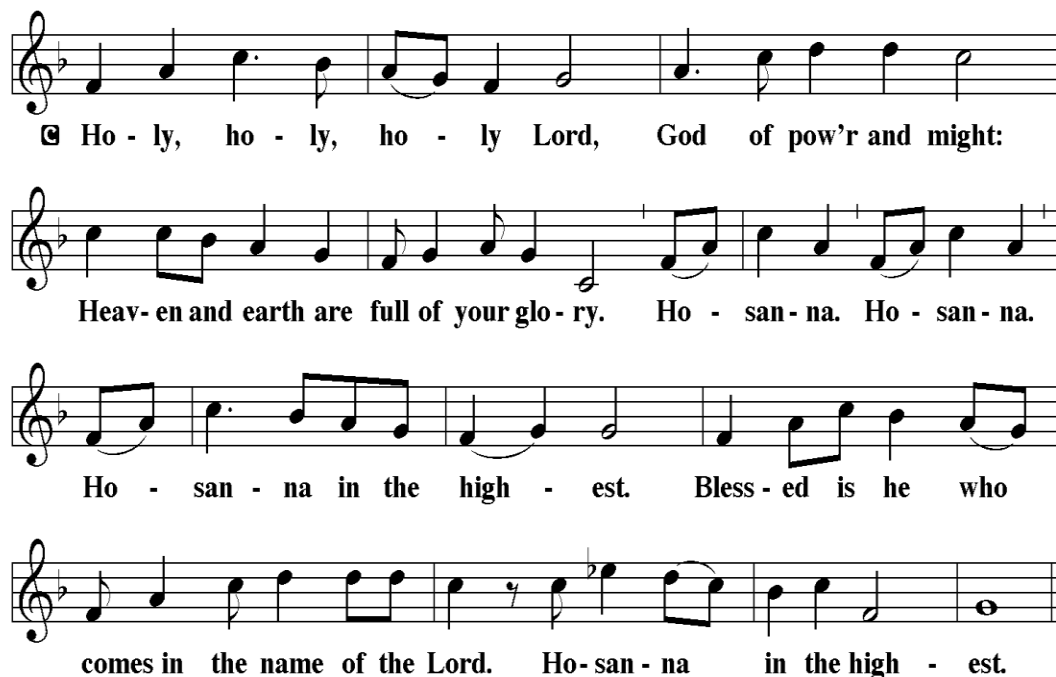
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* PREFACE for LENT

Ⓟ 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:



☩ 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 ~ "What Wondrous Love Is This"**

LBW 385

***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
Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org
St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Congregational Song Leader: Reba Harmon
Tech: Ed Bilich
Council Officers ~ President, Carol Fultz
Vice President ~ Denise Chester
Treasurer ~ Ed Bilich
Secretary ~ Joy Byler
Stephen's Ministry Outreach ~ Ralph Murphy

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

Greeter: Sandra Metz; **Lay Reader:** John Chester
Sound Tech/CD Production ~ Jay Byler

Next Sunday, March 28 ~ Palm Sunday

Greeter: Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook
Sound Tech/CD Production ~ Jay Byler

March Bulletin/CD Delivery ~ Jim Buchanan
March Altar Care ~ Joy Byler and Susan Keller

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

Symbols, questions, and practices for the Lenten journey:

1st Sunday of Lent – Backpack –

What do we need? What is better left behind? What can we do without?
Leaving behind old habits; Fasting; living with less and giving so others may simply live

2nd Sunday of Lent – Hiking Boots –

Do we trample Christ's footsteps in 'walk all over your boots'?
Aligning with Christ's footsteps through Lenten Practices

3rd Sunday of Lent – Walking Stick –

Who can we lean on? What will provide us support?

The Ten Commandments, the Law of Love, church guidance

4th Sunday of Lent – First Aid Kit – bug spray, snake bite kit, flashlight

How do we shine a light into our inner darkness?

How do we dispel ‘gnatty’ and venomous thoughts from our mind?

Self-examination, prayer, reflection, letting God’s light enter

5th Sunday of Lent – Map

What do we do when GPS fails? When we don’t know which way to turn?

When we’re not sure we can keep going?

Trusting in the Holy Spirit, guided by God, strengthened by Christ

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 next Sunday, March 28.**

Holy Week Services ~ Maundy Thursday worship will be held at 7:00pm on April 1 at St. John’s. West Kish will host Good Friday Tenebrae service on April 2 beginning at 7:00pm.

This year’s Lenten offering is being directed to the Discretionary Fund. You will find an envelope included in your offering for March 7.

The daycare is selling *raffle calendars* as a fundraiser. Cost is \$10. You have a chance to a nice selection of cash, gift cards and prizes, beginning April 1 through the 30th. A description of/and 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.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with Sunday morning duties this month. Still needed in April is a lay reader for the 18th. A sign-up for May and June has also been placed in the narthex for anyone who is willing to help.

January 1 thru March 18, 2021

Last week’s attendance ~ 23 Offering ~ \$ 2,035.00

St. John’s ~ Income \$ 44,668.04* Expense \$ 36,002.92

Net Income \$ 8,665.12

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

Daycare ~ Income \$ 44,553.15 Expense \$ 52,196.67

Net Income \$ -7,643.52