

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Belleville, PA 17004**



**Third Sunday of Easter  
April 18, 2021**

*“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow  
as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.” – [Mother Teresa](#)*

## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

Welcome on this Third Sunday of Easter. As we continue to bask in the glow of the resurrection strengthened by the promises and presence of the risen Christ, we recognize even more deeply the wounds of others and the actions of service we are called to. Let us worship today with hearts opened by and opened to the love, joy and forgiveness of Jesus.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN ~ Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!**

LBW 147

**\*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 The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness. 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 Good and gracious God,

C **we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. 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





MESSAGE ~ *Health in Forgiveness*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

HYMN ~ *This Joyful Eastertide*

LBW #149

**\*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 Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers  
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence*

**\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please extend the sign of peace to those here and beyond the walls of our  
sanctuary with a wave and the words "Peace of Christ or Peace be with you!"*

**OFFERING** ~ please leave your gifts in one of the offering plates **at the end  
of the front or back** pews on your way out. If you are worshipping from the back  
parking lot you may leave them in the box by the outside basement steps.

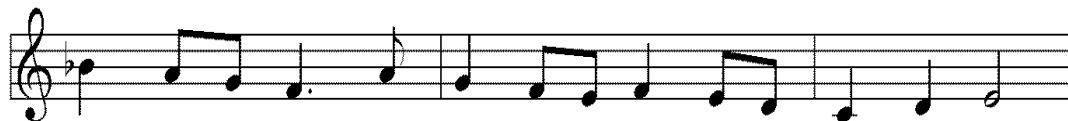
**\*OFFERTORY**



**C** Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



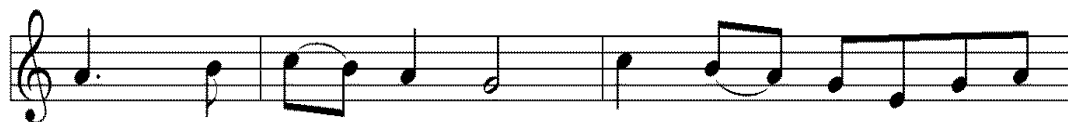
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*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 EASTER and Sundays after Easter

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness; while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing forever the hymn of your glory:



♪ 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

*When all have their bread and cup and have returned to their seats we will take communion together.*

### **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 take the bread]

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

C **Amen.** [Please take the cup]

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

C **Amen.**

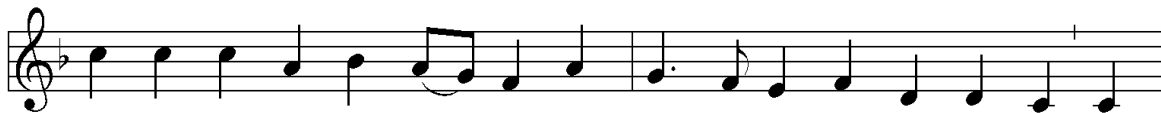
**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** Let us pray.

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

**\*THE BLESSING**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C** Amen

**\*HYMN ~ Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!**

LBW #363

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** The word of God assures us: What we will be has not yet been revealed. Live, therefore, with hope, share your joy, withhold your anger, shed your disappointments, turn to all people with gentleness. Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**R** Thanks be to God

**POSTLUDE**

### **Questions for Reflection**

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, “he opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). What is it to “understand” God’s word? How does understanding feed your faith? In the coming week, take note of one new understanding that comes to you from something you hear or read or realize through another person.

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

God of surprising revelations, I thank you for rest and renewal. I thank you that when you come to your people, you speak peace and invite faith in you. Make this new day a time when I will give more thanks for life than I did yesterday. Give me ears to hear your will for me, hands that are open to others, and eyes to see the beauty in your world; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

For all that has happened this day, O God, I give you thanks. Even for the obstacles I faced, I thank you. Especially when I wobbled in doubt, I thank you because I did not fall. You came to hold me strong and help me take the next step. Now give me rest, secure in your never-failing arms. Let my dreams revolve around what is pleasing and good, bringing me to a new day with zeal for your gifts; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Congregational Song Leaders:** Reba Harmon

**Church Office:** 935-2032 **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

### **Today**

**Greeter:** Sharon Dancy; **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

### **Next Sunday, April 25**

**Greeters:** Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

### ***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.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Neil Himes and family in memory of Pam Himes.

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

## Announcements

Thank you to those persons who signed up to help provide desserts for MOW's in May. Still needed is ~ one 9x12 pan of Lemon Lush, Graham Cracker pudding or Cherry Delight, and money to purchase pies (give to Sue Lynch or church office).

May is coming quickly, and volunteers are still needed for Altar Care, Bulletin/CD and flower deliver, along with a lay reader for May 9 and greeter(s) for May 2 and 16. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can help.

Some of our committees are in need of volunteers. Please prayerfully consider serving the church in this way. Sign-ups can be found in the narthex.

January 1 thru April 15, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 16      Offering ~ \$ 675.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 54,998.13      Expense \$ 48,924.73  
Net Income \$ 6,073.40

Daycare ~ Income \$ 68,841.52      Expense \$ 84,049.68  
Net Income \$ -15,208.16