

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



**Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16, 2021**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome on the 7th Sunday of Easter and the Sunday after May 13 celebrating the Ascension of the Lord. As disciples we continue to be lifted by Resurrection Joy as we consider what it is to serve an Ascended Lord. We find answers in the readings today and in the following weeks with Pentecost and Trinity Sundays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ~ *In Christ There Is No East or West*

LBW 359

*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 Most Merciful 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 Christ's 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**

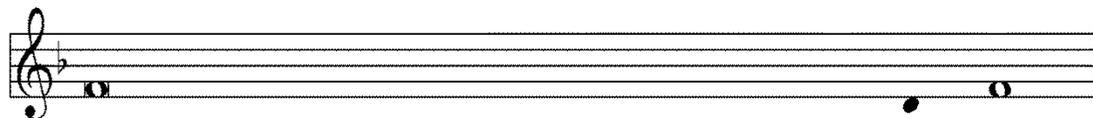
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***KYRIE**



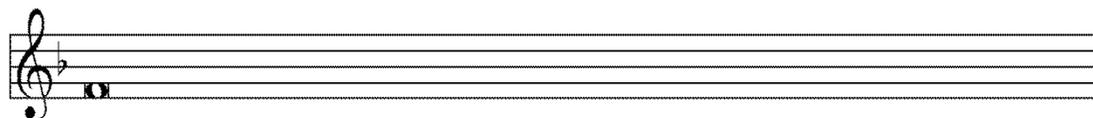
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



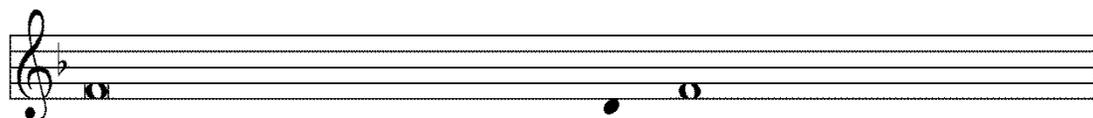
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



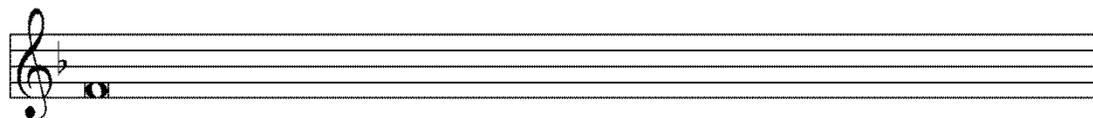
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



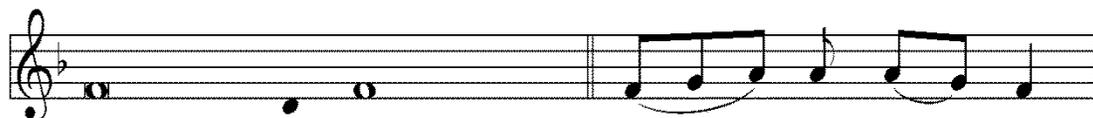
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



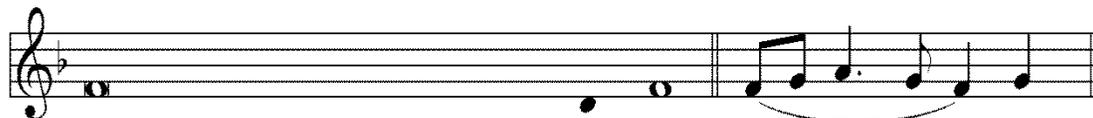
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Hymn ~ *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

LBW #170

***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

Maintaining social distancing we will each come forward to take the bread and wine from the plates. Remaining standing you may pause for blessing and prayer before returning to your seats. A receptacle for the cups will be at the end of the front pew.

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.

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

C Amen.

(After all are seated)

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 ~ Rejoice, the Lord Is King!**

LBW #171

***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

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

Today

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

Next Sunday, May 23 ~ Pentecost

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** Anne Harshbarger

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 in St. John's are given to the glory of God
by Jay and Joy Byler in memory of Jay's parents,
John and Mary Byler.

Please remember in prayer ~ Samantha Shoemaker (niece of Carol Fultz's, daughter-in-law), Nancy Glick, Zachary Fultz, Ron Fultz, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Vivian Plank, Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz), Don Wolfe and Carol Yoder (VVH).

FROM the PASTOR

Next Sunday May 23 is Pentecost when the disciples receive the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrate being set on fire for discipleship by wearing red next week. **The following Sunday, May 30, is Trinity Sunday** - consider how Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit work together in your life and the life of the church. It is also the day before Memorial Day. Honor veterans in our church and country. Carolyn is planning something special.

Elmcroft in Reedsville and Valley View are both now open for visitors. At both places you need to call ahead to speak to the social worker on the hall of the person you would like to visit. She will arrange a time for you in their schedule.

Pastor visited Vivian Plank and Betty Harmon at Elmcroft this week. Vivian wanted to be sure that I share her great appreciation for the congregation's prayers and cards. She asks we pray for all at Elmcroft.

Betty was in great spirits, loves looking up at the mountains from her room and when asked about her own good attitude said something like "I like to be happy, there's no sense wasting time being an ol' sourpuss."

It would be fun to share others' words of wisdom too.

Miriam Williamson also thanks the congregation for the bulletin deliveries, CD's and flowers.

Camp Mount Luther is especially appreciative of referrals for campers for the summer season. If you know of grandkids or neighbor kids you would like to see go to camp let us know. Some scholarships are available so it will be affordable for all.

The pastor will be in the SJ office Monday 10-12 and 2-4 barring conflicts with funeral visits, and occasional appts.

The pastor week of June 14 Pastor will be in the office on Weds 10-12 and 2-4 instead of Monday.

Announcements

Cindy and I thank all those who sent cards and expressed their compassion after the death of my mother Agnes Bilich. Your extension of God's Love has been much appreciated. It feels good to be a part of this church family.

Ed and Cindy Bilich

Looking ahead, volunteers are still needed to lay read and greet on June 27. Please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office, if you can help in this way.

Reminder ~ St. John's has Meals on Wheels this week. Those persons who signed up to donate desserts for this Tuesday, May 18, please be sure to have them at the Community Hall by 9am that morning.

The annual daycare yard sale is Tuesday, July 6 and Wednesday, July 7. We could really use your unwanted items. Anything in clean, usable condition, including furniture is always appreciated. Please feel free to place your items on the stage. **NO CLOTHING OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE!**

Practice service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on **Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. **RSVP by May 17 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.**

St. John's is once again participating in the *Baby Bottle* fundraiser for Crossroads Pregnancy Center. The bottles can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to participate, please take one, fill it with your spare change or other monetary donation and return it to the church by Father's Day, June 20th.

Belleville Mennonite School invites you to the 56th Annual Auction on May 28th and 29th at the school. Friday evening will feature a Chicken BBQ Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Music and a variety of outdoor games and activities for the whole family. The dinner will be served in take-out containers from 5:00-7:00 PM. Saturday will feature a pancake breakfast from 6:30-8:30 AM and a wide variety of food and homemade baked goods available throughout the day. The Merchandise and Gift Certificate Auction begins outdoors at 8:30 AM. Handmade quilts will be sold at the top of each hour, special feature certificates will be sold at 11:00, featured outdoor items at 11:30 and a special 75th anniversary commemorative quilt will be sold at noon. Children's activities will be offered from 9:00-2:00 PM. A complete listing of auction items can be found at www.bmsprek12.org.

January 1 thru May 13, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 24 Offering ~ \$ 1,178.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 68,052.71 Expense \$ 61,055.78
Net Income \$ 6,996.93

Daycare ~ Income \$ 134,323.12 Expense \$ 108,046.23
Net Income \$ 26,276.89

* Daycare received CARES COVID funding