

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023**



PRELUDE

We will again take a little time to review the sung parts of our Lenten liturgy.

WELCOME

Welcome on the 4th Sunday of Lent. Often called 'Rejoice Sunday' this is the pivot point, near to the half-way mark between Ash Wednesday and Lent where even as we continue our Lenten practices we see our path more clearly to Easter morning and the celebration of Christ's joyous resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN ~ God, Whose Almighty Word** (Susi plays intro)

LBW #400

God, Whose Almighty Word**400**

1 God, whose al - mighty word Cha - os and
 2 Lord, who once came to bring, On your re -
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, Glo - ri - ous

dark - ness heard And took their flight:
 deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight,
 ho - ly dove, Speed forth your flight;
 Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might!

Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day
 Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:
 Move on the wa - ter's face Bear - ing the lamp of grace,
 Bound-less as o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,

Sheds not its glo - rious ray,
 Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!
 And in earth's dark - est place
 Through the earth, far and wide,

***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,

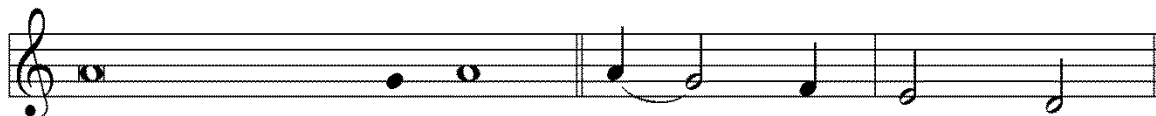
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.

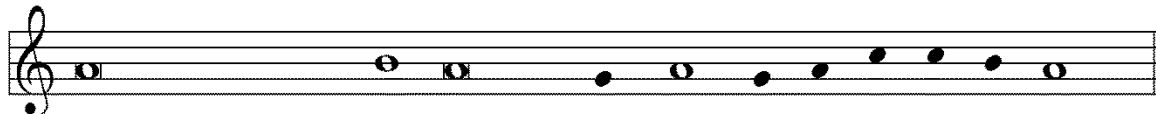
C **Amen**

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.** (Susi will lead part A)

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



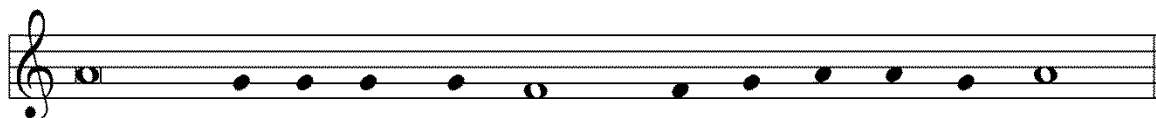
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



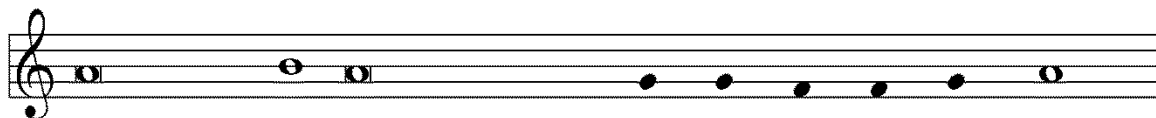
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



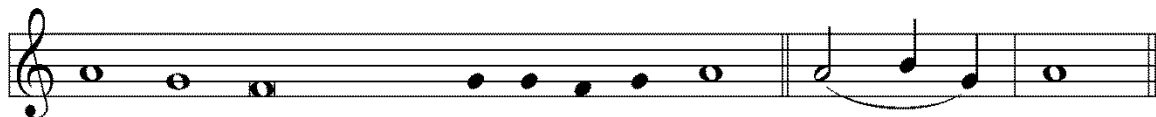
C Lord, have mer - cy.



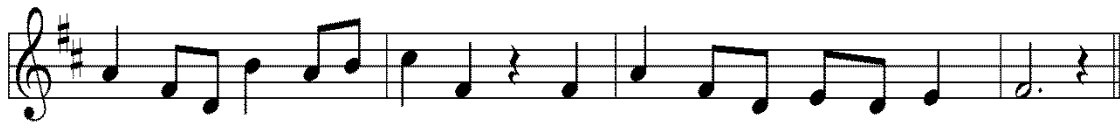
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



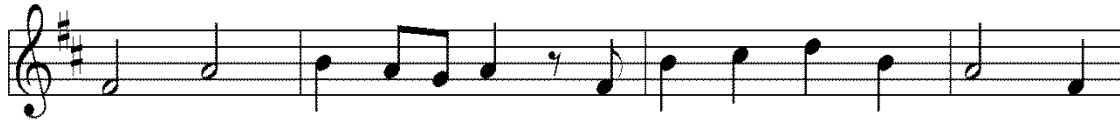
let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

***HYMN of PRAISE** (Susi will play part A, congregation join in)

A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, 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

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)** (Susi will play or sing P)



P The Lord be with you.

© And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 23 ~ *with response*

***Second Lesson ~ A reading from Ephesians 5:8-14**

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Susi plays intro congregation join in singing*)

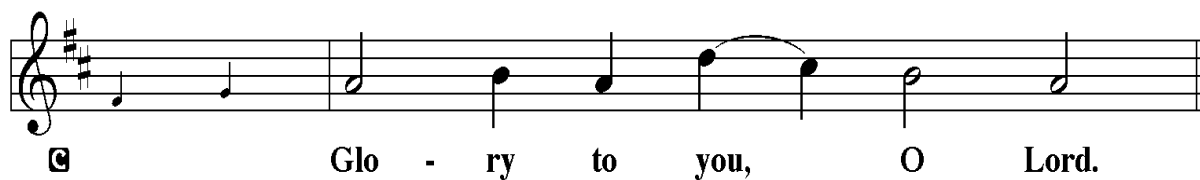


☞ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



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

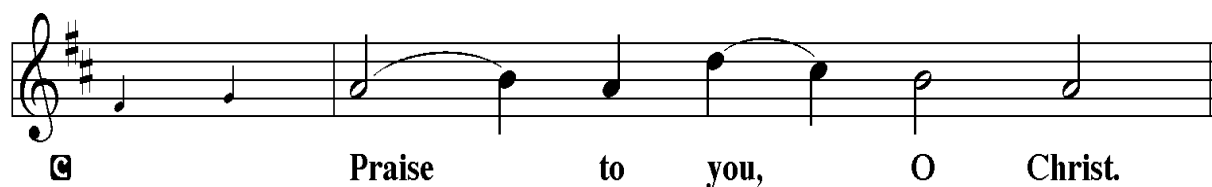
Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter.



The Gospel is read. (Joe will read)

After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



MESSAGE

Strife in the World and an Image of Heaven, in the life and music of Paul Dukas
Seulki (Susi) Yoo

*HYMN ~ *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

LBW # 439

439

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there.

***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 ~ You may place your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews on your way out.

***OFFERTORY** (Susi plays introduction)

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.** (Joe leads and reads the prayers - substituting or adding prayers as the events of the day call for)

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

***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

***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 ~ O Savior, Precious Savior**

LBW # 514

514

O Savior, Precious Savior

1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
 2 O Bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
 3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, All grace and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove,

O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove:
 Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought:
 The glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
 In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;

We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; To thee a - lone we sing;
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; To thee a - lone we sing;
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; To thee a - lone we sing;
 Then shall we praise and bless thee Where per - fect prais - es ring,

We praise thee and con - fess thee, Our ho - ly Lord and King.
 We praise thee and con - fess thee, Our gra - cious Lord and King.
 We praise thee and con - fess thee, Our glo - rious Lord and King.
 And ev - er - more con - fess thee, Our Sav - ior and our King!

***DISMISSAL (Joe)**

P 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

Today

Altar Care: Brenda Boring; **Greeter:** Edna Chester

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy; **Sound:** Jay Byler

Next Sunday, March 26

Altar Care: Brenda Boring; **Greeter:** VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy; **Sound:** Jay Byler

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.*

Please remember in prayer ~ Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim, Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH). Joy Byler and all our EMT and front line workers at the Allensville active shooter event Thursday morning. Thank God for the safety of families living on Main Street there. Pray for all of us as we face fear and lean on God our rock and our salvation.

FROM the PASTOR

Pastor Ela is away this week to visit Bill's mother who has been ill. We thank Susi for sharing part of the presentation she has been giving as she traveled these last two weeks. This follows up on the theme last week of Christ turning the tables on prejudices between Gentiles and Jews and helping us to envision a heaven on earth where all are joined in the love of God that dwells with us.

Music and Worship will meet at 10:30AM Weds March 22 at St. Johns in the blue room or pastor's office. Call Jami if you need a ride.

We thank God for the safety of our EMS and law responders to the Allensville event on Thursday. Please hold them, our families and community in prayer in our time of prayers of intercession today.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

Early Deadline: Register for summer camp at Mount Luther by midnight on April 15, 2023, to get a discount on your summer camp registration! Or, if you bring a friend who has never been there, you can get 25% off your registration fee.

Program information and registration at www.campmountluther.org.

Holy Week Services ~ April 6, Maundy Thursday 7pm at St. John's, and April 7, Good Friday 7pm at West Kish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lenten offering envelope found in your boxes for last week is being directed to ELCA Disaster Relief and World Hunger.

The Property Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30pm. All members are urged to attend.

“Spring Fundraiser Dinner to benefit the Central PA Clinic for Special Children and Adults. April 1st at Locust Grove Mennonite Church. Doors open at 5:30pm. At 6pm an Amish wedding-style meal will be served. Call 935-2065 to make reservations.”

A fundraiser concert for the clinic featuring Joe Bonson and Coffee Run is also being held at Kish Valley Grace Brethren Church, Reedsville on Sunday, March 6 from 5-7pm.

January 1 thru March 16, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 23 Offering ~ \$1,595.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 36,283.57 Expense \$ 38,728.81
Net Income \$ -2,445.24

Daycare ~ Income \$ 83,465.72 Expense \$ 81,254.46
Net Income \$ 2,211.26