

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



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023**

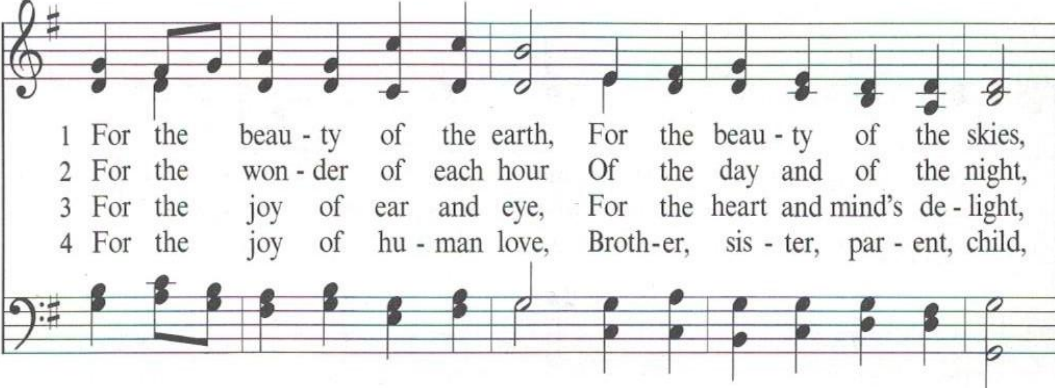
**PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*HYMN ~ *For the Beauty of the Earth*

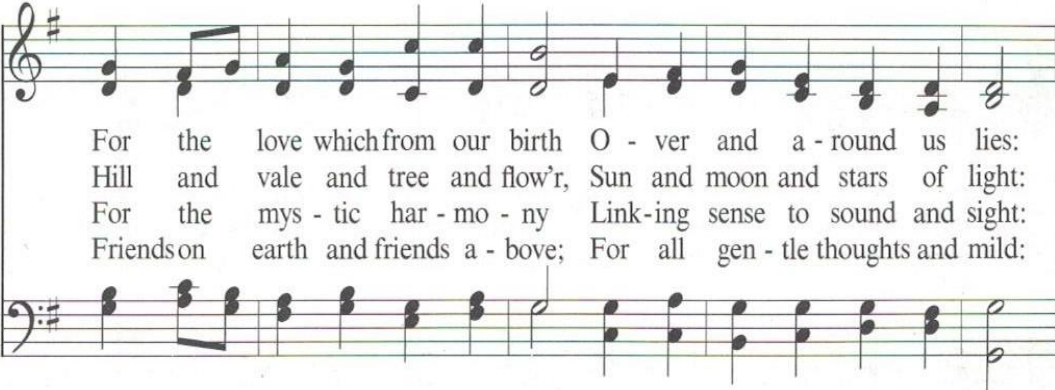
LBW # 561

For the Beauty of the Earth

561



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
 Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon and stars of light:
 For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:

Refrain



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise This our sac - ri - fice of praise.

5 For yourself, best gift divine
 To the world so freely giv'n;

Agent of God's grand design,
 Peace on earth and joy in heav'n: *Refrain*

***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,

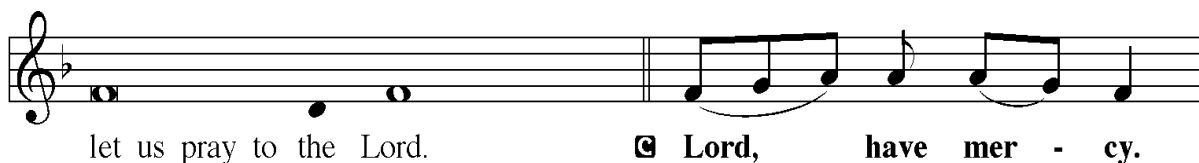
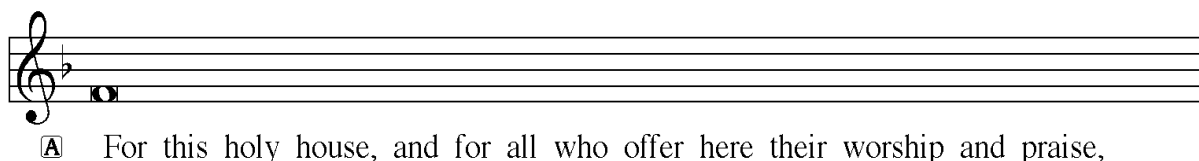
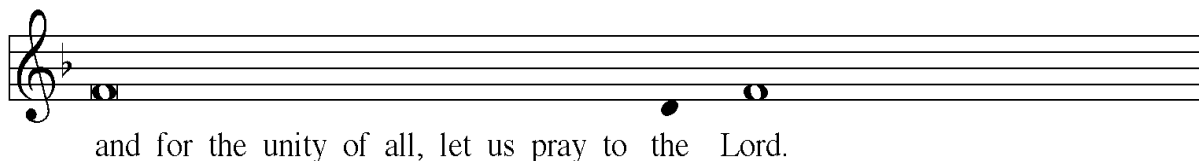
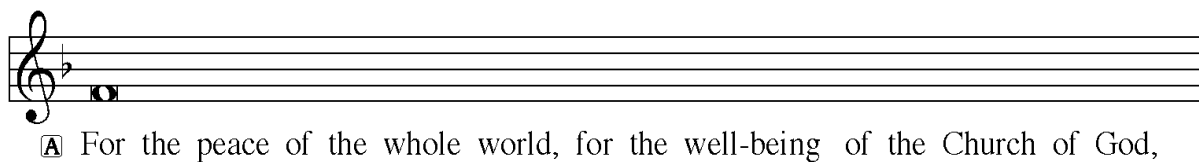
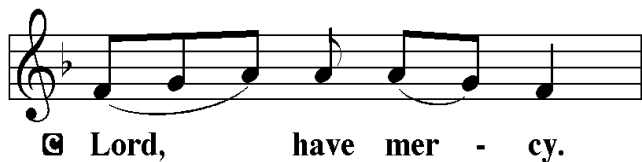
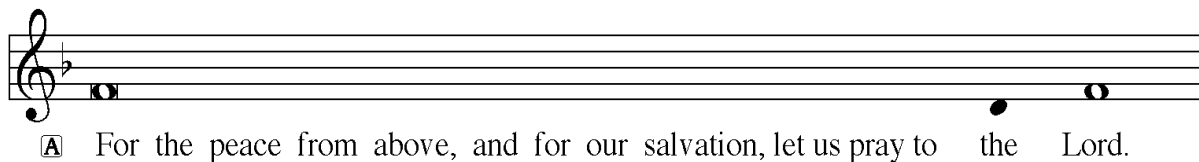
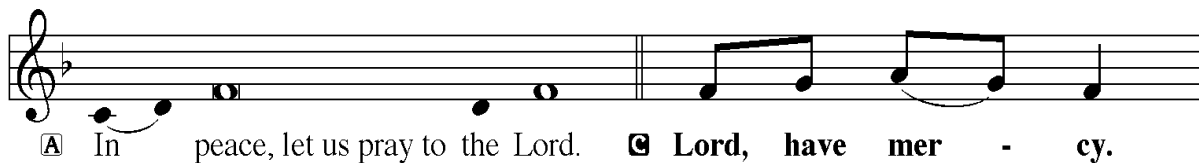
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus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

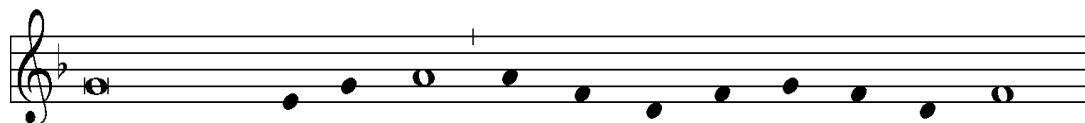
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,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

***HYMN of PRAISE**

Ⓐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Ⓑ 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)**


P The Lord be with you.


C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Acts 7:55-60

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ~ *with response*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

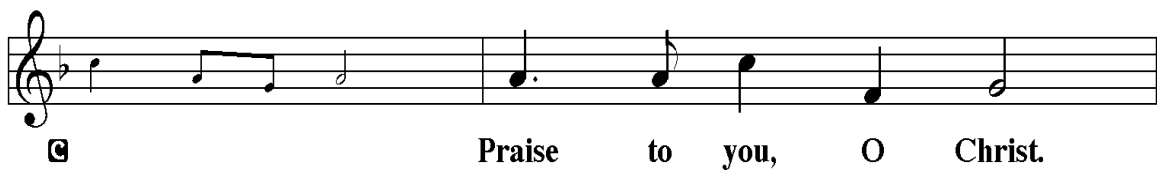
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter.



The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord




MESSAGE

HYMN ~ *How Great Thou Art*



LBW # 532

532



How Great Thou Art




1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, And take me

all the*worlds thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the *roll - ing
 birds singsweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

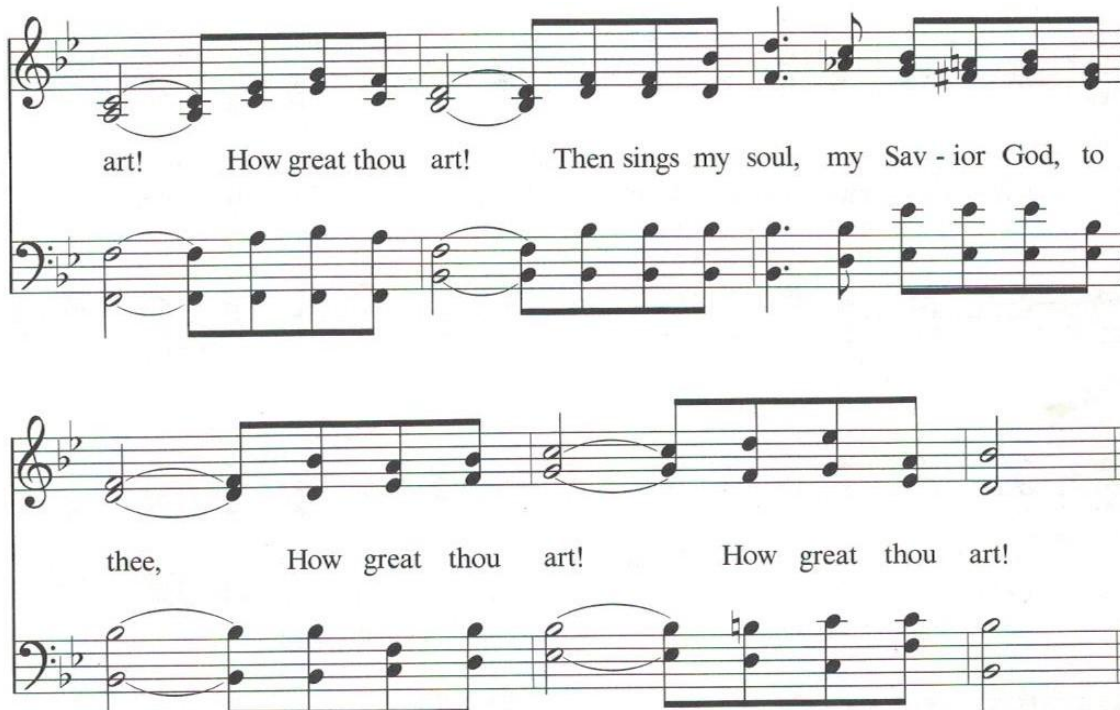


Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, How great thou


Continued on next page



***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 United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray 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

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The peace is shared

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.

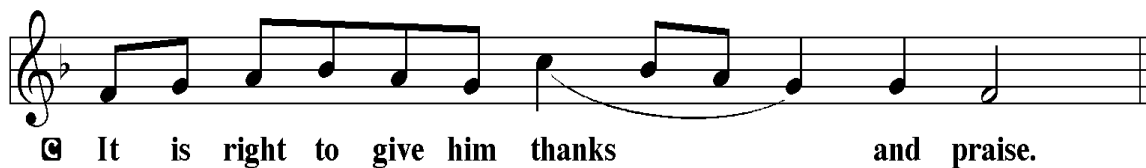
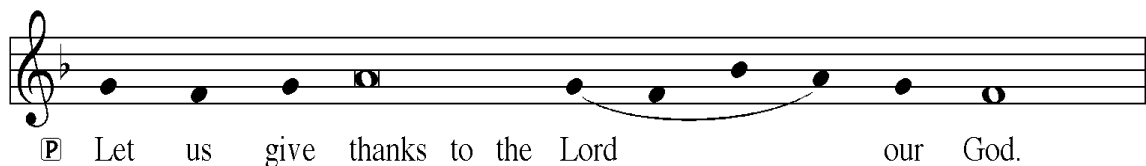
***OFFERTORY**

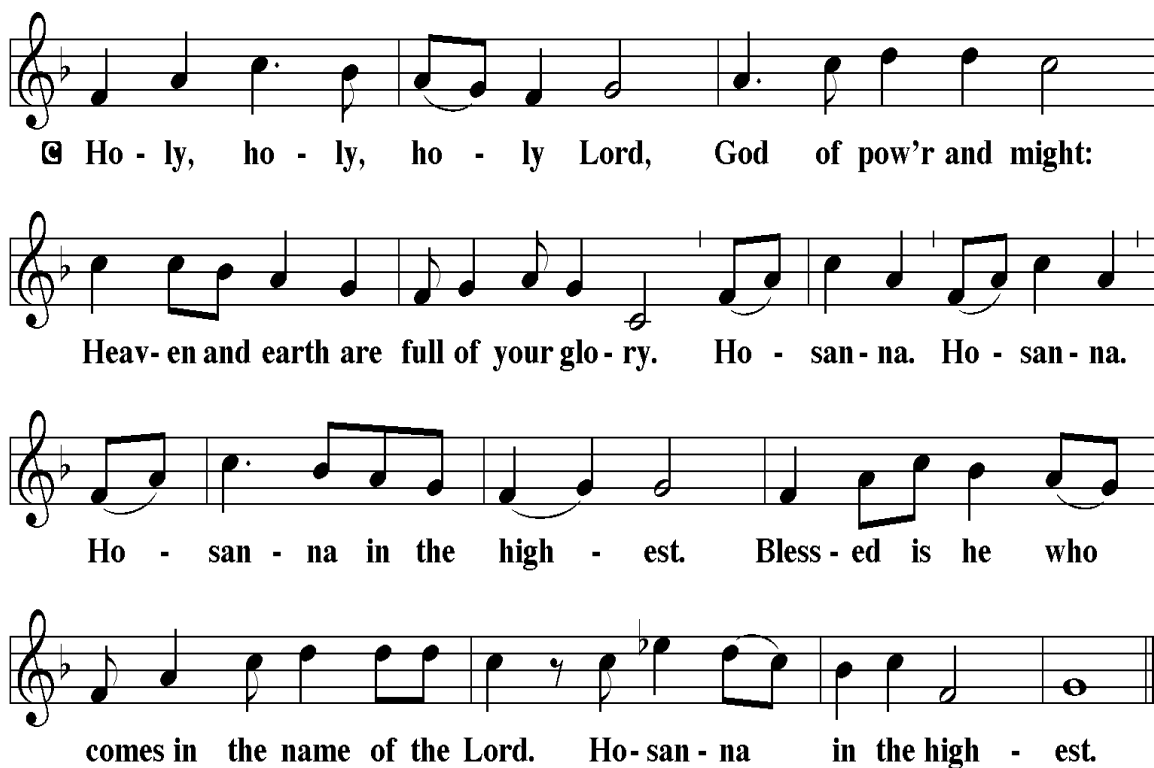

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
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** PREFACE**



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

PRAYER SONG for COMMUNION

Altar Song

*All my heart, Oh, All my heart,
All my heart I bring to you, I bring to you
All my tears, Oh, All my tears,
All my tears I bring to you, I bring to you
All I am, Oh All I am,
All I am I bring to you, I bring to you*

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.

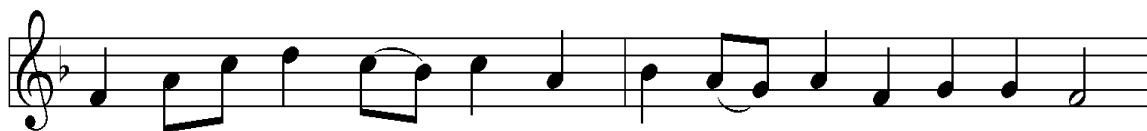
(After all are seated)

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.

***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

***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 ~ My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

LBW # 479

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

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God**POSTLUDE****Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

Today

Altar Care: Joy Byler; **Greeters:** Ken and Nancy Wyland

Lay Reader: Ken Wyland; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

Next Sunday, May 14

Altar Care: Joy Byler; **Greeters:** Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring; **Sound:** Joe Kanagy

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).

FROM the PASTOR

Whereas during Covid there was anxiety about not being able to go about normal routines, lately there has been a preponderance of isolation, depression and anxiety about going out in public places.

If you or someone you know is experiencing this, try to reach out to friends, church members or pastor. Pray with/for them. Remember the local crisis line is 1-800-929-9583 and is available 24/7 365 days per year to anyone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.

From Lisa Griffith: "Dear friends, I will be home on May 23rd and if anyone would like to form a small choir to sing a few simple numbers, I would like to start choir practice on Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 pm. It's probably best to wait until after Memorial Day. In church on May 28th please ask for a show of hands to see how many are interested and also ask if the day and time suits everyone."

Upcoming events: (Bold indicates Church calendar celebrations)

Thursday May 11 Council Meeting

Sunday May 14 Mothers and Women of the Church Day

Thursday, May 18 Ascension of the Lord

Sunday May 21 Ascension service

Sunday May 28 Pentecost (red is the liturgical color of the day)

Service Honoring Veterans this year at Watts Memorial Church

Monday May 29 Memorial Day

Sunday June 4 Trinity Sunday

Mothers/Fathers Brunch after Church

Sunday June 18 Fathers and Men of the Church Day

House Blessings - Spring cleaning? If you would like the pastor to visit to offer a house blessing and anointment let Pastor Ela know or leave a message with the church office.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Please consider being a representative from St. Johns to the Synod Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other churches in our area with similar concerns. This might be particularly useful for people on our transition and call committee. Workshops and worship services are enlightening and enlivening. You may attend one or both days in person or online. Speak to a council member, Pastor or Kelly if you would like to be our representative.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will convene on June 16-17, 2023, in Weber Chapel Auditorium (Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove) under the theme “Baptized into Christ: United, Supporting, Serving.” Assembly workshops will focus on leadership and congregation vitality.

Voting members of the Synod Assembly are the rostered leaders of this synod as well as two lay members from each congregation. Once registered, voting members will receive updates via email, and on the synod website and social media pages.

We encourage our smaller congregations to elect voting members to this assembly: We will spend some of our time in discussion about providing for ministry and pastoral care in creative ways that address our current financial and leadership realities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The May newsletter can be found in the mailboxes of those members who do not receive it by email.

St. John's is planning to participate in the Memorial Day parade again this year. If you have any ideas and/or would like to help, please contact the pastor or a council member.

There will be a Mother/Father Brunch following worship on Sunday, June 4. Place settings and beverages are being provided. A sign-up can be found in the narthex for those planning to attend, and to help provide the following ~

breakfast casseroles
breakfast pastries, donuts, coffee cake
fruit or monetary donations to purchase a fruit tray
(if possible, please sign-up by Sunday, May 28)

Big Valley is going to be featured on an upcoming PBS "Our Town" series, and will feature stories told by those living in Allensville, Belleville, Milroy, Reedsville and surrounding areas. The first step in this process is the "Kick-off meeting" being held at **7:00pm on Thursday, May 11 at Brookmere**. Cole Cullen, (grandson of Dr. Helfrick) will be producing the show, and is looking for support and input from the community. By attending the meeting, you are making no commitments. But, your knowledge of the area and your contacts are a vital part to the success of the program

Camp Mt. Luther ~ The church will once again be paying camp fees for any children who would like to attend this summer. If you bring a friend who has never been there, we can get 25% off the registration fee. Program and registration information can be found at www.campmountluther.org. CML brochures are also available in the narthex. Please contact the church office if interested in attending.

January 1 thru May 4, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 21 Offering ~ \$ 1,040.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 54,629.94 Expense \$ 59,725.31
Net Income \$ -5,095.37

Daycare ~ Income \$ 124,748.16 Expense \$ 121,181.07
Net Income \$ 3,567.09