

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, May 8, 2022
4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Mother's Day



INTRODUCTON

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *God Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* 385

Mothers' Day Litany

P: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

All: We praise God for the women who gave us life.

P: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

All: We give God thanks and praise.

P: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

All: We pray for peace.

P: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

All: We pray for healing.

P: For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

All: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.

P: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

All: We weep with those with broken hearts.

P: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

All: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

P: For those who are preparing emptier nests,

All: We both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.

P: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

All: We pray for wisdom and patience.

P: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

All: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.

P: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.

All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.

P: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

All: We give God thanks and praise.

P: For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

All: We give God thanks and praise.

Permission to use this litany for public worship is granted. If it will be reprinted in worship bulletin, please attribute with link to <http://fatpastor.me>.

Greeting

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *This Is the Feast* p.140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Acts

FIRST READING: Acts 9: 36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

L: A reading from Revelations

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blessing and Honor 854*

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unending trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation (*especially*). Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding (*as did Julian of Norwich, whom we commemorate today*). Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, on this Mother's Day holiday for Americans, we are reminded that all mothers need quality health care to raise their children. Guide the work of Global Health Ministries as they help to provide medical supplies to developing nations and empower health workers to offer quality care to all people. God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Shephard Became a Man*

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,

and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *P.144 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Holy God, you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;
out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table,
and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;
within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

The Christian Ed Committee was blessed with a VBS Coordinator Molly Hollick and Assistant Coordinator Dawn McCloskey. They are planning organizational meetings.

SAVE THE DATE! May 21, 2022 a Spring House cleaning is being planned for the church. More information and sign-up sheets early in May.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Payments for Sight and Sound “DAVID” February 6 - \$65.00; May 1 - \$65.00 and the final payment June 17 - \$60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Joyce Braucht.

Camp Mount Luther, the outdoor ministry of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, is now accepting applications for Summer Ministry Team positions. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for the outdoors, and strong leadership and teamwork skills. The camp is accredited by the American Camp Association. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the camp office or submit an application online at www.campmountluther.org/application. They need to employ five more camp counselors.

If anyone would like two -- 4'x4' planting box kits that can fit together, see Pastor.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, May 8, 2022	<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>
9:30 a.m. Children's Church begins	
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service	<i>Mother's Day</i>
Monday, May 9, 2022	
10 am Hymn Picking	
Wednesday, May 11, 2022	
10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship	
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, May 12, 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes	
Friday, May 13, 2022	
9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.—Food Distribution	
Saturday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. Conversations with the Bishop at St. Luke.	
Meet at St. John at 1:15 p.m. to carpool to St. Luke.	
Sunday, May 15, 2022	<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>
Global Missions Sunday	
9:30 a.m. Children's Church begins	
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service	

Blessing

P: God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
‡ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: *Have No Fear, Little Flock* 764

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jane E Hart who died on Sunday, May 1, 2022. The funeral was on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany. Pray for Peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: : Lector – Darlene Bilby ; Assisting Ministers –Bill Ely Jr. and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller – Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely; Children’s Church – Cathy Eisner.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers— Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor – Fergusons and Agnew Cryer; Children’s Church – Molly Hollick; Flowers -- Wards .

The flowers are given in loving memory of our dear mothers, Mildred Wolfe and Mary Ott, by Nancy and Will Wolfe

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of Pap Yost by the Yost Grandchildren.

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DON'T YOU THINK IT'S
ODD THAT THIS "ELDER"
ASKS JOHN A QUESTION
AND THEN ANSWERS IT
HIMSELF?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT MIGHT
BE A
RHETORICAL
DEVICE.



I WONDER IF THERE'S JUST SO
MUCH GOING ON IN THIS VISION
THAT JOHN **NEEDED THE
QUESTION** TO HELP HIM FOCUS
ON WHAT HE **NEEDED TO SEE.**



AND **NOW WE
CAN'T UNSEE IT!**



REVELATION 7:9-17

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