

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, May 16, 2021**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Introduction to the day**

*The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made.

**C:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the **+** Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**GATHERING SONG: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)**

**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.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from Acts.

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: 1 read responsively

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13**

L: A reading from 1 John.

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

L: 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: John 17:6-19**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world,

but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

*Silence for meditation*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Rise, O Sun of Righteousness* (ELW 657)**

## 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: 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.*

A: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (*especially*). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **Our Offerings**

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

*This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** - *Keepers of the Faith*

## **OFFERTORY**

**Offertory Hymn: Create in Me** (ELW 186)

*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.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

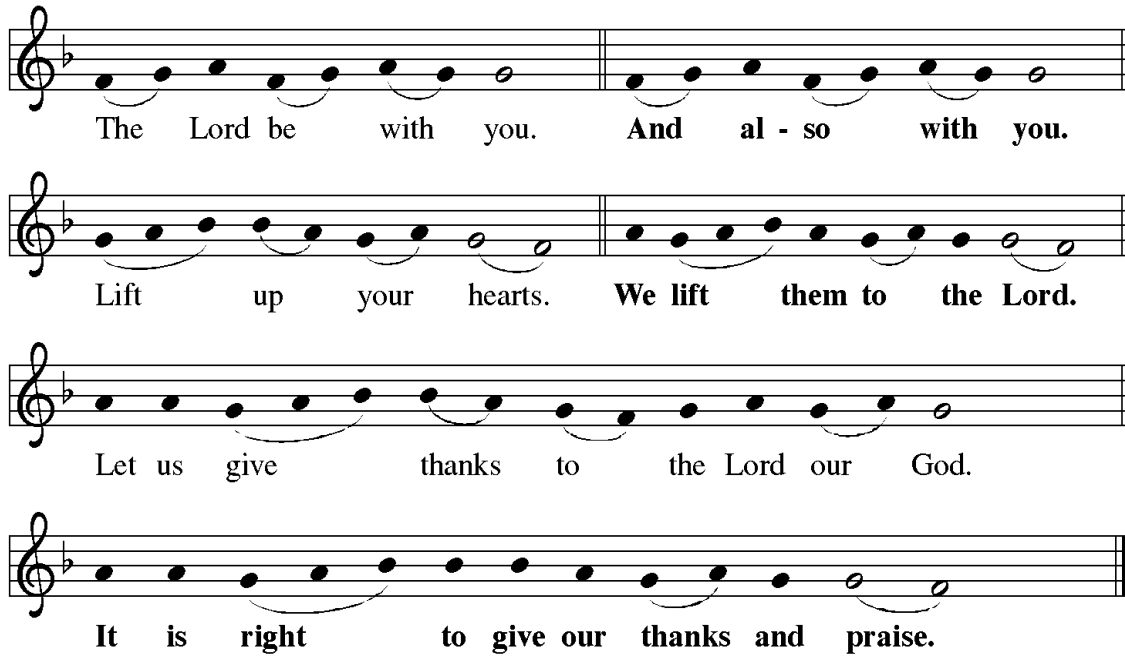
Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



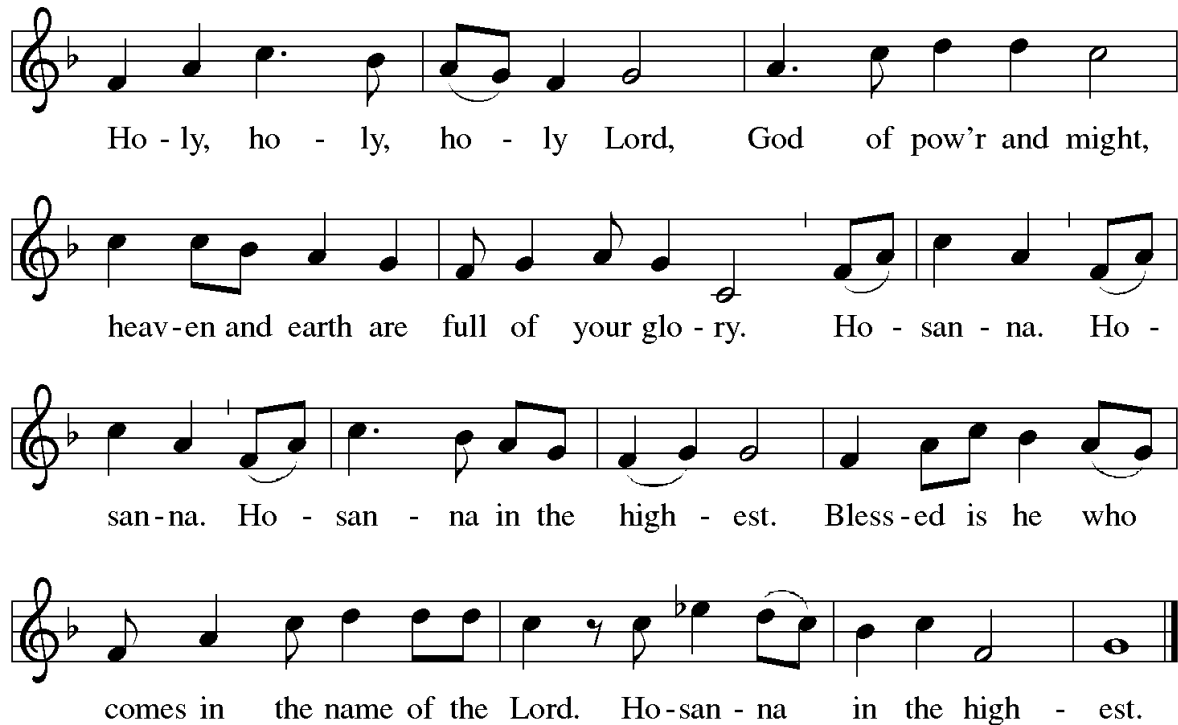
## DIALOGUE



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 our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

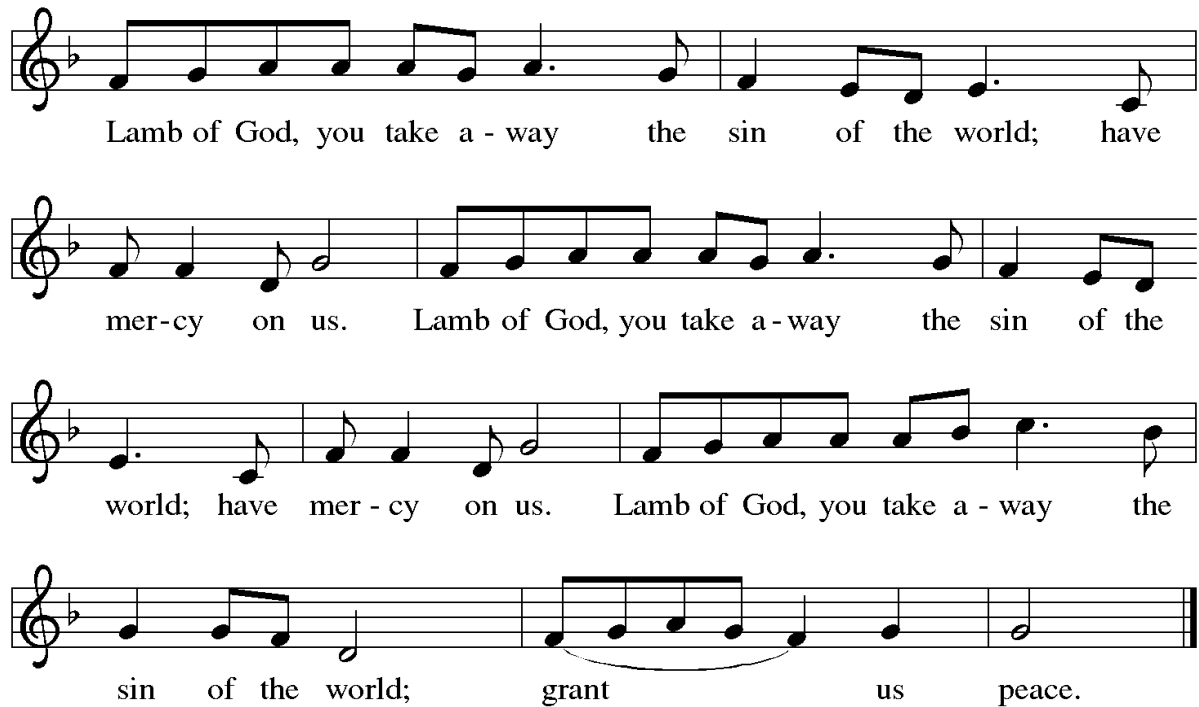
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

*{Repeat} Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word ---.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (ELW 855)

**DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

## *Announcements*

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Connie Barker, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Linda and Ralph Lehman, David Mitchell, Ginny Moffitt, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lectors – Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers - Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Acolyte – Emilee Eisner; Head Usher - Shane Snyder; Teller-Shane Snyder and Christine Barner; Bulletin sponsor -; Bread Sponsor –.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers -Joyce Brucht and Carl Schaefer; Acolyte –Ella Mitchell; Head Usher -Shane Snyder; Teller-Shane Snyder and Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor -; Bread Sponsor –.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Loved Ones by Zane and Hazel Spong

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

### **Homemade Sandwiches**

Please fill out an order form and return it in the offering basket or Church office by May 19. Cost is \$4.00 per sandwich there will be Ham/Cheese or Turkey/Cheese. The Women of St. John will be making the sandwiches on Saturday, May 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed and encouraged to come and help. Please wear your mask and plastic gloves will be provided. All proceeds benefit Jersey Shore Summer Rec Program. You can pay and pick up sandwiches on Sunday, May 23 after worship.

### **Phil-it-Up Fundraiser**

On Saturday, May 22, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Stop by and enjoy some ice cream or dinner at Phil-It Up and 20% of your total will be donated to the Summer Recreation Program. Spread the Word the busier Phil-It-Up is during these hours the more we raise for Summer Rec. Thank you to Phil-It-Up and the Bowes Family for your help.

### **Roof/Construction Update:**

We are moving ahead and we should see Roof Trusses and improvements beginning in June.

### **Giving Plus+**

Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

### **Give+ Text:**

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

## **Youth Ministry**

### **“Grab-a-Tab”**

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn’t matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



### **Summer Camp**

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

### **Camp Mt. Luther Clean Up Day**

Practice stewardship through 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! A light lunch will be served. We will be meeting at St. John on Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m. and returning around 2:00 p.m. to go to Camp Mt. Luther to spring clean the cabin St. John sponsors. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Molly.

### **Confirmation**

We will be celebrating Affirmation of Baptism with Emilee Eisner, OceAnn Green and Brayden Wehler on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us downstairs following the 9:30 a.m. worship service for a tea in honor of the new confirmands.

### **Honoring the 2021 Graduates**

We will be recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of our 2021 Graduates from High School and College on Sunday, June 13 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Please join us downstairs for a tea following the service.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, May 16, 2021

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Catechism Review after worship

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

7:00 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion Trinity Episcopal Church

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time/Restless Oakes

Thursday, May 20, 2021

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Court of Eagle

Saturday, May 22, 2021

8:00 a.m. Volunteers meet in kitchen to make sandwiches

8:00 a.m. Depart for Camp Mt. Luther Spring Work Day

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Phil-it-Up Fundraiser benefits Summer Rec

Sunday, May 23, 2021

*Pentecost*

*Affirmation of Baptism-*

*Olivia Anne Eisner, OceAnn Green, Brayden Wehler*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Confirmation Tea

Pick up Sandwiches in the kitchen

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

JESUS LEAVES HIS  
DISCIPLES BEHIND BUT  
PRAYS THAT THEY WILL  
BE PROTECTED IN HIS  
ABSENCE...



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES, AND JESUS PRAYERS  
ARE **ALWAYS** ANSWERED  
BY THE FATHER.



IS THIS ONE OF THOSE "YES" -  
"NO" - "WAIT" PRAYER ANSWER  
SITUATIONS? 'CUZ I'VE **NEVER**  
BEEN A FAN OF THOSE.



JOHN 17:9-16



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