



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 | 10:30am

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*Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.*

### PRELUDE

*We stand.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*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.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

**And also with you.**

GLORIA

**Fast and lively**

Org. *f*

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

5

peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9

-migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13 *mp*

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22

sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the

27 Org.

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* *rit.*

A - - - men, a - - - men, a - - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

ACTS 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

**A**N angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”<sup>31</sup> He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
 and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
 “May your heart live for ever!”
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
 he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
 all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;  
 my descendants shall serve him; \*  
 they shall be known as the Lord’S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
 the saving deeds that he has done.

## SECOND READING

1 JOHN 4:7-21

A reading from First John.

**B**ELOVED, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who

say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

**SEQUENCE**

PUER NOBIS

That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord!

**GOSPEL**

JOHN 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**ESUS said: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SEQUENCE**

PUER NOBIS

All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
To you, once dead, but now alive!

To God the Father equal praise,  
And God the Spirit, now we raise!

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

PASTOR BOURRET

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.**

*We kneel or sit for the prayers.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each intercession ends with these words:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*We stand.*

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We sit.*

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Now the green blade riseth LINDLEY (*CONTEMPORARY*)

*We stand.*

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise Him, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Majestic**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

6  
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

**Slower**

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

4  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

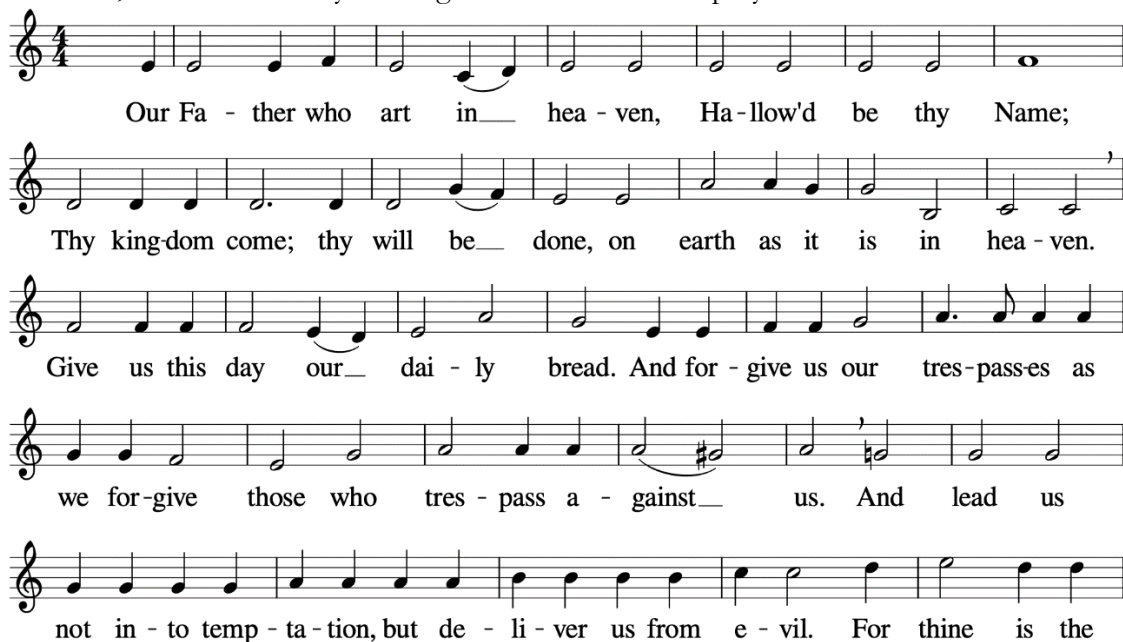
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 all 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, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in\_\_ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;  
Thy king - dom come; thy will be\_\_ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us this day our\_\_ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as  
we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst\_\_ us. And lead us  
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

king-dom, the po- wer and the glo- ry, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.*

*We sit.*

**LAMB OF GOD**

**Slowly and gently**

Org. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

**MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION**

**ANTHEM** *My beloved spake* HADLEY (CONTEMPORARY)

*We stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### 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.

**Amen.**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION    We know that Christ is raised

HYMN 449

### DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

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St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford Music Press

Lord's Prayer, Traditional Afrikaan's, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

## **Worship Leaders Today**

Celebrant	The Rev. Rebecca Bourret
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Richard Leach
Communion Assistant	Lois Coffin, Susan Ylitalo
Acolytes	Gino D'Orta
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	Kathy Caraballo, Pat Geils

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **Monday, April 29:**

Quilting Group -5:30 pm Welcome Room

### **Tuesday, April 30:**

Choristers -5:15 pm Choir Room

### **Wednesday, May 1:**

Confirmation - 5:30 pm Sweden Room

Handbells - 6:00 pm Reformation Room

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

### **Sunday, May 5:**

Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 am

Sunday School - 9:30 am Luther Hall

Fellowship Hour - 11:30 am Welcome Room

## **"Just One More" Stewardship Campaign**

Members should have received a letter from Pr. Grorud this week along with a pledge card for our upcoming stewardship campaign. This campaign is critical to future ministries of St. John's. Please read the letter carefully and contact Pr. Grorud if you have any questions.

## Looking Ahead . . .

May 5	Recommitment to Stewardship Sunday
May 6	New Member Orientation - 6:00 pm
May 19	Last Day of 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
May 26	9:30 am Summer Worship Schedule
June 2	5:00 pm Third Annual Pride Evensong
June 30	Mass on the Grass Outdoor Worship
July 28	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of the Animals
August 3-12	St. John's Choir in Residence at St. Patrick's Cathedral - Dublin
August 25	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of Backpacks
September 8	Rally Sunday (worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am)

### New Member Orientation

On Monday, May 6, 6:00 -7:00 pm, a new member orientation session will be held for anyone interested in membership at St. John's Lutheran. This will be a brief overview of our mission and who we are as the people of God at St. John's. Please join us.

### New worship assistant and acolyte robes



The Worship and Music Committee has ordered new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes are here and match the same color as the current blue choir robes, making them interchangeable for different sizes and will also be fitted with a white scapular that is worn over the robe.

If you would like to help, each robe is \$235, totaling \$3,000. Gifts of any size can be made to the church, marked "robes" in the memo.

### KNIT NIGHT

Bring your crochet, knitting, cross stitch, or other craft to work on in the Sweden Room (room next to office) 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Dates: May 31, Jun. 21, Jul. 19, Aug. 16, Sep. 27, Oct. 25, and Nov. 22. There will be a Christmas party in December with the quilting group. For more information, please contact Cheryl Milukas at [ourgang@milukasfamily.com](mailto:ourgang@milukasfamily.com) or 203-656- 0269.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Spring is here and it's a busy time for families to begin traveling. It's also a time where sports often seem to take priority from worship. This means that there are many spots to fill, such as readers, assisting ministers, acolytes, Altar guild, communion assistants, fellowship/coffee hour hosts and little free pantry.

It is a great opportunity for you to renew your commitment to assist in leader worship, but it's also an even greater opportunity for you to sign up as a new leader. These are small commitments that have a great impact on our worship.

If you are interested in signing up for one of these slots, email Nancy or Nathan. You can also sign up directly for worship leaders [here](#) and acolytes [here](#). If this is your first time signing up, easy directions and orientation will be provided.

30-minute orientation and refresher class for acolytes will be Wednesday, May 8, at 5:00 pm

30-minute orientation for Worship Assistants will be Monday, April 29, at 6:30

30-minute orientation and refresher class for Altar Guild will be Monday, April 29, at 7pm

Participation in leading worship is a perfect way to deepen your faith and your connection within our faith community at St. John's.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.**

## INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.