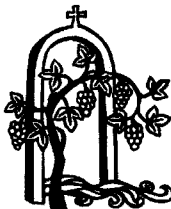


St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

INTRODUCTON

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

PRELUDE

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG *Come, We that Love the Lord* 625

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.**

KYRIE: page 138

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Day by Day* 790

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

L: A reading from First John

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* 656**THE NICENE CREED p.104****PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who

strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for*) God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Transforming God, as we prepare to begin another summer camp season at Camp Mount Luther, bless the preparations of staff and campers. As they spend their days among the growing things of nature, may they also grow in faith, love, compassion, confidence, leadership, and adventure. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Sing a Song of Celebration*

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
The assembly is seated.

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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*
(repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*
The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power,
 the Christ of unending joy,
 and the Spirit of Easter hope
 † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* 836

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of **our military troops** around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on.

Special thanks to this weeks' helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers Ron Brundick and Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon; Children's Church--Molly Hollick.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers-- Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon; Children's Church--Pam Wehler. Flowers-- .

The flowers are to the glory of God and in honor of Vivian's Birthday by Ashley Shields

The Sanctuary Candle in May is to the glory of God and in memory of our Pap by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan, and Adalynn.

NEEDED: Copier Paper. We are running low on 8 1/2 x 11” copier paper for printing the bulletins, etc. If you could purchase a case of paper for St John Lutheran it would be greatly appreciated. If you have a Sam’s Club membership their price for an eight-ream case is \$39.98. Staples and other places are much higher. The paper needs to be brought to the office. Even a single case would be helpful!

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

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 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

Women of the Church has accepted a challenge to **collect new or gently worn shoes** for Missions. Please check your closets and bring the shoes in soon! Place them in the box near the elevator labeled for shoes

Many thanks to all the Women of the Church and men who helped honor and thank our First Responders at a dinner Thursday evening. A delicious pasta meal was prepared, served and enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Mayor Lon Myers, Pastor Aucker, Julie Bowes and Phil It Up, Lynette Yost, Shane and JeanAnne Snyder and Joyce and Bob Braucht's niece and nephew Denise and Ralph Hershberger for their contribution of food, time and expertise. All hands working together made for an enjoyable time.

We are blessed to have a Police Force, EMTs, Fire Fighters and a Judicial Office that work hard and tirelessly for the good of our community.

Attention all Treasurers: Please turn your books and check registers into the office for the finance committee to do its annual audit by May 5th.

Calendar

- Sunday, May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of Easter
 - Spring Cash Sunday for repairs to the outside tower
 - 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's church
 - Audit of Treasurer's Accounts
- Monday, May 6, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Tuesday, May 7, 2024 6:00 p.m. Council
- Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes
- Friday, May 10, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution
- Saturday, May 11, 2024 Mother's Day Dinner at 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 12, 2024 7th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day
 - 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's church
- Sunday, May 19, 2024, Confirmation and Graduate tea,
Recognition of Scholarship Recipients.
Fire Company joining us for worship
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 Church Work Day at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 30, 2024 A Brunch in honors of Fathers after worship



