

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

April 29, 2018
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

**“I am
the
true
vine ...”**



John 15:1

St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Fifth Sunday of Easter**. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month and on Festival Sundays. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

Prayer upon entering God's House:

Eternal God, help us to maintain our focus on Your glory, rather than on the glories of the world. We turn our hearts to You as the Holy Giver of all life. Deepen our devotion to You. Hear us, O Lord, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Chorale

Brahms

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We worship this day in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness.

P The Almighty and Merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Blessing and Honor"

LBW 525

***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**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

*Those who are able, please stand

LBW—Green Hymnal WOV—Blue Hymnal



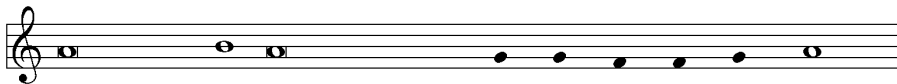
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen

*HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and



strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.



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



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



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

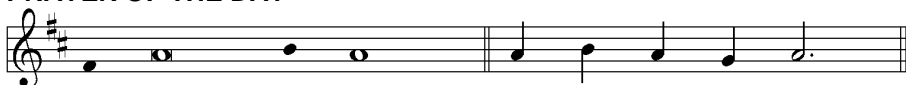


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☪ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al-so with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 8:26–40

A The First Lesson is from the eighth chapter of Acts.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM 22:24–30

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live forever!"**

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations bow before him.

**²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD;
He rules over the nations.**

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**²⁹My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's forever.**

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND LESSON:

1 JOHN 4:7–21

A The Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of First John.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been

perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**



GOSPEL:

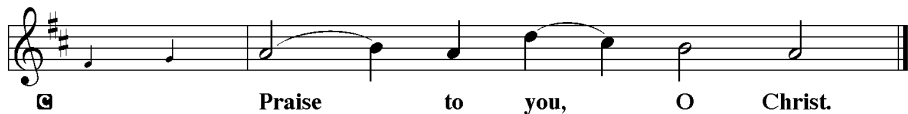
JOHN 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter.



¹⁵“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P The Gospel of the Lord



CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

LBW 148

SERMON

*NICENE CREED

C 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

*THE PRAYERS

Because the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin, death and the devil, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the whole church, the vine You have planted, of which You have made us the branches: Father, grant that we may bear that fruit You are seeking, that we may know love as You have defined it in the life and death of Your Son for us, and that our love may be real and lively, a witness to Your love for us all.

Lord, in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

(Other intercessions are offered.)

P Into Your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

C Amen

***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM

Youth Sunday

***OFFERTORY**



☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—our selves, 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.

THE 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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

* SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

C: 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



☉ 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

LBW 224, 210, 135, 128, WOV 740

*COMMUNION

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present
in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.*

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers

For those that require special dietary restrictions, we now have gluten-free, communion wafers. Please inform the Pastor of your needs.

P The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen

***CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray....We give You thanks almighty God, that You have refreshed 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

***BENEDICTION**

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. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



♩ A - men

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

LBW 151

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jackson

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Spring Concert May 6th!

At 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The New Bells

The Senior & Junior Bell Choir

the Senior & Junior Vocal Choir

under the direction of Rebecca Veith

Mark your calendars...you don't want to miss this!

*The concert is free and open to the public,
so bring your family, friends and neighbors
and celebrate spring with us!*



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON!

Our Annual Congregational Luncheon, sponsored by the Youth Group and their parents, following worship next Sunday, May 6th.

The youth will be serving a festive feast of lasagna. Vegetarian and dairy free will also be available —Salad, Bread, Butter, brownie, Drinks. A free will offering will be received and the proceeds will go toward the Youth Group's Trips this summer.

Women's Luncheon

SATURDAY - May 19, 2018 1:00-3:30pm



Inviting all of the Heiress' and Princess' of St Johns to join us for a kitchen shower to help equip both kitchens for use. If you have extra kitchen items, or care to donate an appliance, see the list to be posted soon.

Bridal Games, wedding shower "events", photo booth and crafts will top off the afternoon of fun. We will be having "shower" food, snacks and

drinks.

See Sharon Febinger, the church office or return flier in the offering plate with an envelope marked Ladies Banquet \$8.00/each Ages 12 and under free.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Pentecost Flowers

Geraniums may be purchased to place in the church for Pentecost. Complete the form below to place in the offering plate or mail it to St. John's at 218 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning. If your included payment is a check, it should be made out to *St. John's Lutheran Church* with "Pentecost flowers" in the memo line. Flowers are \$4.00 each.

Deadline is May 14th.

Geranium _____

(Please indicate number of flowers desired)

In memory of

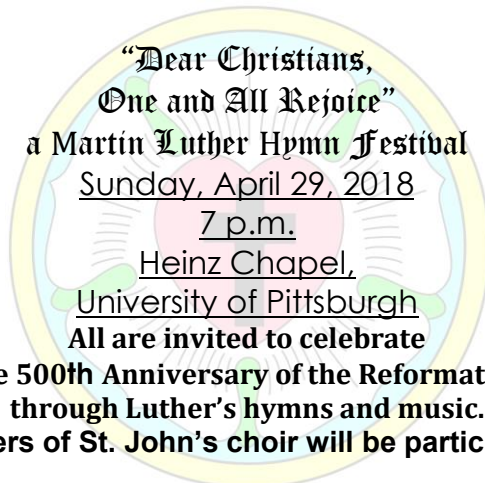
Given by:

In honor of

Given by:

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today	9:00 a.m.	New Bells	
	9:20 a.m.	Children's Chimes	
	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir	
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir	
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Youth Sunday	
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group	
	7:00 p.m.	Luther Hymnfest @ Heinz Chapel	
	Monday 4/30	7:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
	Wednesday 5/2	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	6:30 p.m.	Handbells	
	8:00 p.m.	Senior Choir	
Thursday 5/3	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour	
	2:45/7:00 p.m.	Catechism	
	6:00 p.m.	TOPS	
	7:00 p.m.	National Day of Prayer @ High School	
Friday 5/4	Noon	Probation Job Skills Class	
	7:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	
Sunday 5/5	9:00 a.m.	New Bells	
	9:20 a.m.	Children's Chimes	
	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir	
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir	
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion	
	12:00 p.m.	Youth Group Spring Luncheon	
	7:00 p.m.	Spring Concert	



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lector
Comm. Assistants

Acolytes

Greeters
Nursery
Ushers
Camera Operator

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith
Tricia Howard
Terry Cousins
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the Altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in celebration of our fine youth who are leading the service this morning.

OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God, each other, our community and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.