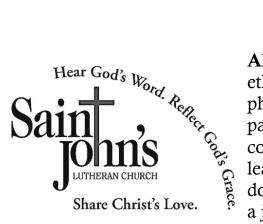


Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 | 10:30 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-

racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_





Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org wk154linda@gmail.com

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1

ELW Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book
ACS All Creation Sings: Purple Book

PRELUDE Prelude in G major, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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. Your people danced as they passed through the sea into freedom's land. By grace, many have 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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN ELW 377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE





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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

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

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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 reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Choir sings light verses, congregation bold verses. Refrain sung by all.



²⁵From you comes my praise in the [great] assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who [fear] the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall [eat and] be satisfied.

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! ...

May your [hearts live] forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and [turn to] the LORD; all the families of nations shall [bow be]-fore God.

²⁸For dominion be-[longs to] the LORD, who rules [over] the nations. R

²⁹Indeed all who sleep in the earth shall bow [down] in worship; all who go down to the dust,...

though they be dead, ... shall kneel be-[fore] the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall [serve] the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to gener-[ations] to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people [yet] unborn, saying to them, ... "The [LORD] has acted!" R

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7–21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSION



V. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

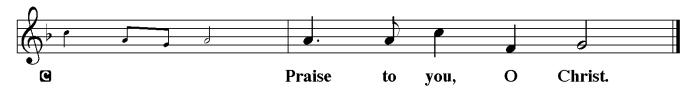
GOSPEL John 15:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to John.



[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.



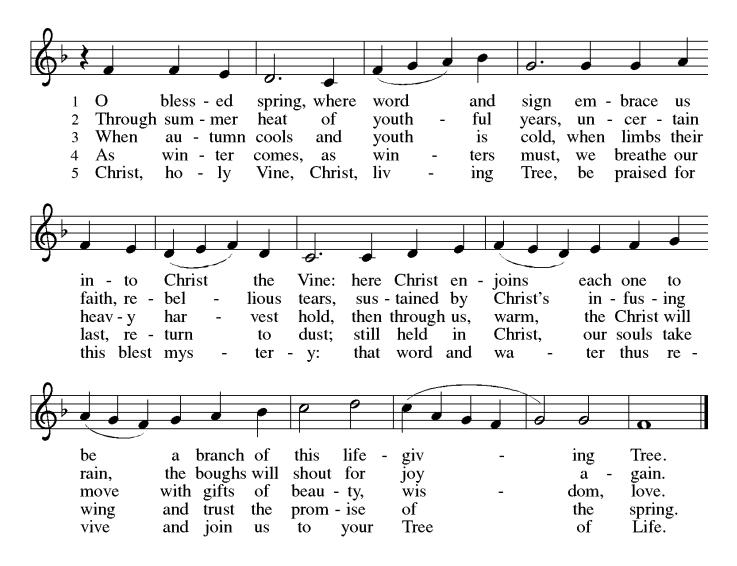
Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 447 O Blessed Spring



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

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

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness! God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness; 'tis the spring of souls today, Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days sleep in death as a sun hath risen.

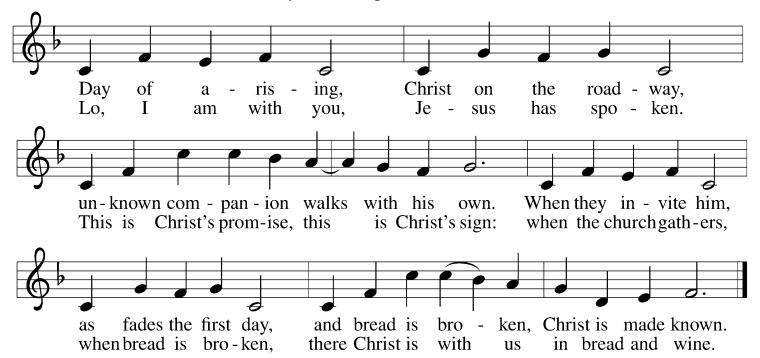
Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render; comes to gladden faithful hearts who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold thee as a mortal; but today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

- John of Damascus (c. 675-750); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 374 Day of Arising

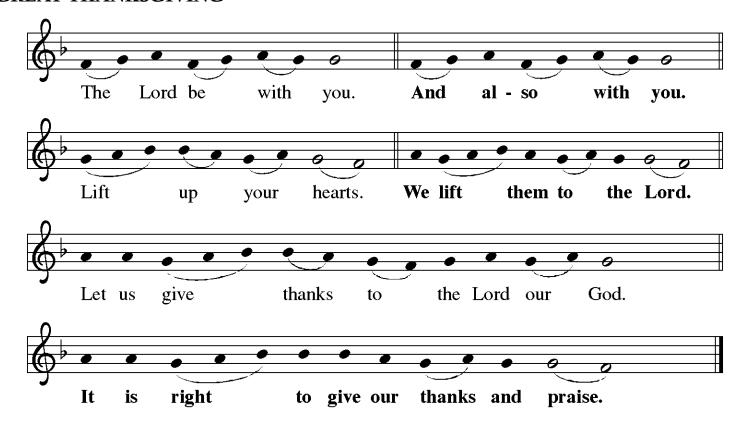


Text: Susan Palo Cherwien Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

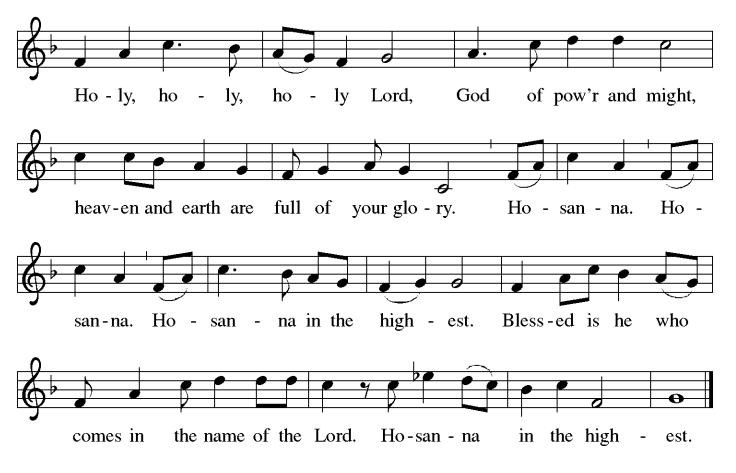
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



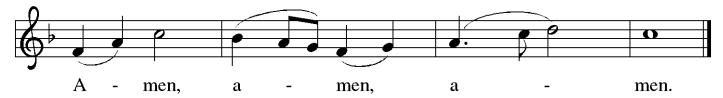
PROPER PREFACE



Blessed are you, O God of the universe . . . With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine . . . we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

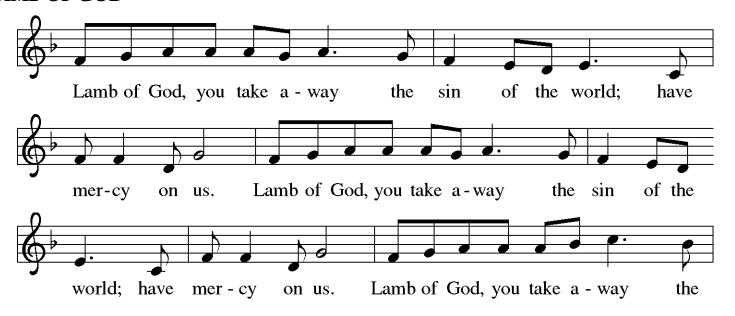
Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

To receive communion, approach the pastor who will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION HYMN ELW 474 Bread of Life from Heaven



Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

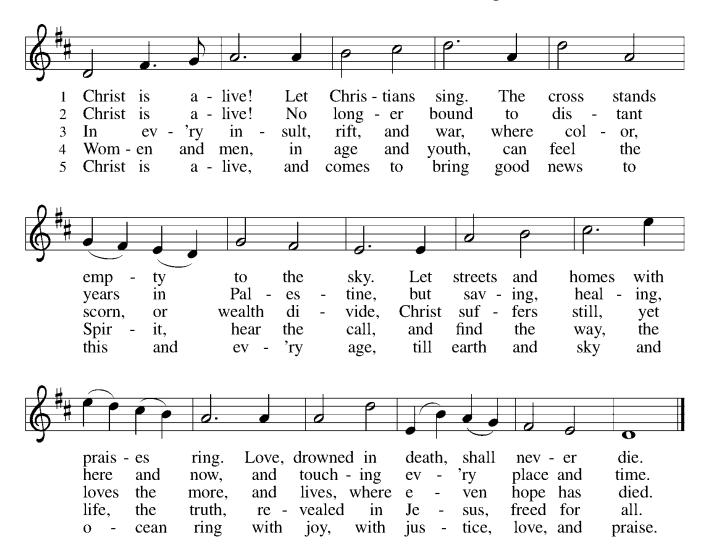
BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Almighty God—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fugue in G major, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

April 28, 2024

A big THANK YOU to The Reverend Gladys Moore for filling in for Pastor Blake today. Pastor Moore will be presiding at both services, as well as the Choral Vespers at 4:00.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jean Wheeler Hughes by Karen & Bill Feezer.

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

Worship volunteers needed: We have many opportunities for members to help lead in worship by reading scripture and helping serve at the altar. Sign up in the weekly email.

Bridges Lunches Assembly, TODAY, 9:00 AM for the Bridges Run on May 4.

Fellowship Time Help Needed: Sign up to provide homemade or store-bought baked goods/bagels, fruit/veggies, and cheese & crackers, etc. This is a major community building endeavor of the church that we all enjoy and requires all of us to help. See the weekly email to sign up.

Choral Vespers for Eastertide, TODAY at 4:00 PM. Celebrated at the close of the day, this service of candlelight, chant, hymns, and choral music is the perfect way to start the week. Join us for contemplative reflection and moving singing by the Saint John's Choir.

Council Q&A, Sunday, May 12 at 9:00 AM to provide the congregation with updates on several ongoing projects, overall ministry, and answer questions.

The Rev. Bruce H. Davidson 50th Ordination Anniversary, May 19 at 3:00 PM, Festival Worship Service at the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel (7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia,). A buffet dinner will follow at the Seminary Brossman Center. RSVP for the dinner to donaldebarb@yahoo.com. No gifts, please! An offering will be received at the service for the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA.

Grant Requests: A reminder that all Saint John's members can submit a grant request for a charitable organization that they are involved with and whose mission is aligned with Saint John's mission. Contact the church office or Janet Onnen-Wright for a grant request form.



