

100 E Water Street
Abbottstown, PA 17301
717-259-0796
www.stjohnsatown.com



Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

About Holy Communion

St. John's practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are invited to join us for Holy Communion, to receive the Lord's body and blood for forgiveness of sin and renewal of life. The church provides pre-filled communion elements ready to use at home and you are also welcome to share your own bread and wine or grape juice with your family to use during the service as you watch at home.

April 7, 2024

PRELUDE

"Easter Fanfare"

Lau/Neander/Maker

THE EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ has Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE GATHERING

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

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!

"This Joyful Eastertide" vs. 1 & 3



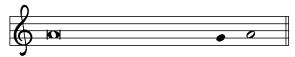
Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

*THE 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.**

*THE KYRIE

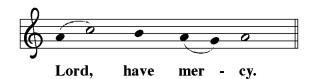


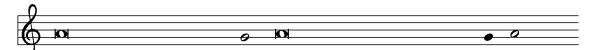
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



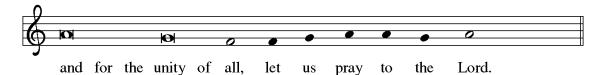


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





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







For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray... Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133



¹How good and how pleas- [|] ant it is, when kindred live togeth- [|] er in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the ¹ hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- ¹ evermore.



SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

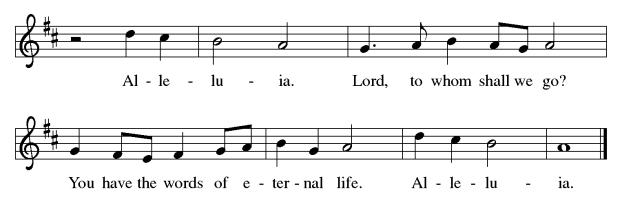
¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 20th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Shawn Berkebile

SERMON

Deacon Amy Mambu



"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" vs. 1, 4, & 5



- 1 Come, you faith ful, raise the strain of tri um phant glad ness!
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls to day: Christ has burst his pris on,
- 3 Now the queen of sea sons, bright with the day of splen dor,
- 4 Nei ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por tal,
- 5 Al le lu ia! now we cry to our Lord im mor tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el from sad - ness, in to joy and from three days' sleep in death sun has ris - en. as a with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der; the watch - ers, the nor seal. hold mor - tal: nor you as tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter Ja - cob's sons and daugh-ters; yoke of A11 the win - ter sins. and dark. fly - ing our long is comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion to - day, be - stow - ing but a - mong your own, vou ap - pear, - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa ther prais - ing;



them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea led wa - ters. from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing. wel-comes in un - wea - ried strain Je sus' res - ur - rec - tion! your deep peace, which ev - er - more hu - man know - ing. pass es Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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)

God of grace, hear our prayer.

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.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please share a sign of peace with those in your household.

If you are watching on Facebook offer a message of peace in the comment section.

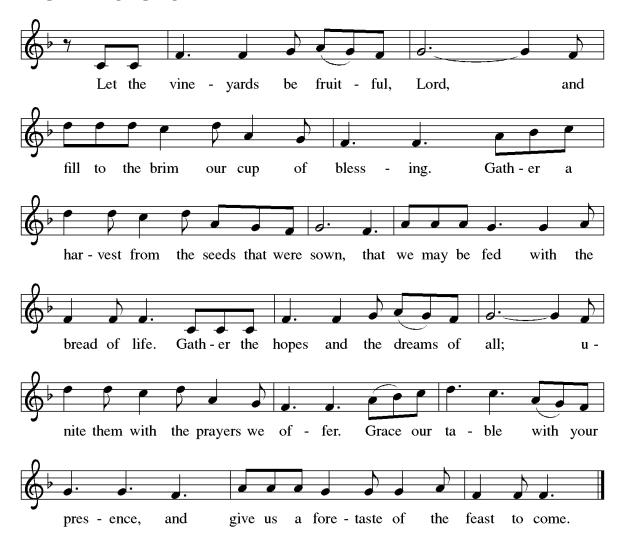
THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

Follow the QR Code, (click here) or go to www.stjohnsatown.com to make your gift. You will have the option to make a one time donation or a recurring donation. This website is easy, quick and very secure.

Thank you for your support!



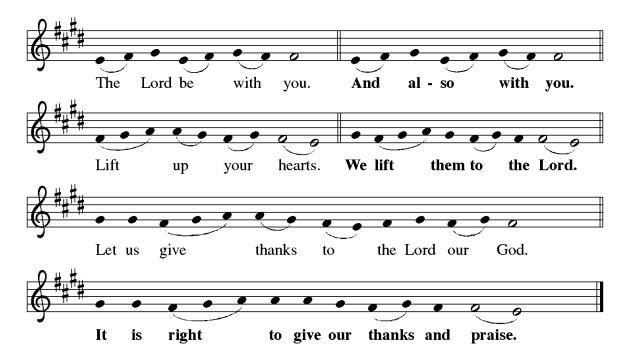


*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray... 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.

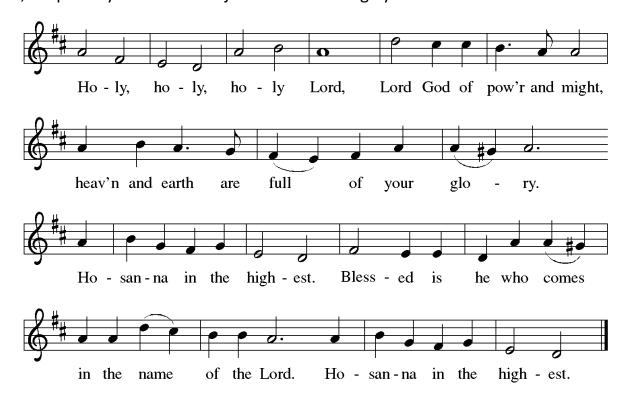
The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of G. Rodger Wildasin, George Wildasin's father, in accordance with the George M. and Pauline F. Wildasin trust.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

And now, let us pray together using the words our Lord has taught us...

*THE 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.

About Holy Communion

St. John's practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are invited to join us for Holy Communion, to receive the Lord's body and blood for forgiveness of sin and renewal of life. The church provides pre-filled communion elements ready to use at home and you are also welcome to share your own bread and wine or grape juice with your family to use during the service as you watch at home.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

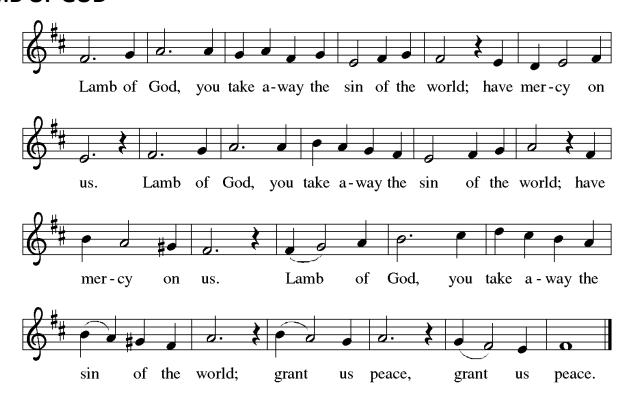
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.



*LAMB OF GOD



*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

THE SENDING

*THE BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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



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"Thine is the Glory"



*THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We Will!

POSTLUDE

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

Smith

+

+

+

Serving St. John's - April 7

Serving St. John's - April 14

We are looking for worship assistant volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. There is a blue notebook with listings for acolytes, communion assistants, greeters and lectors. We also need congregation council members to be the head usher. Thanks!

Sign-up sheets through May 26 are now available



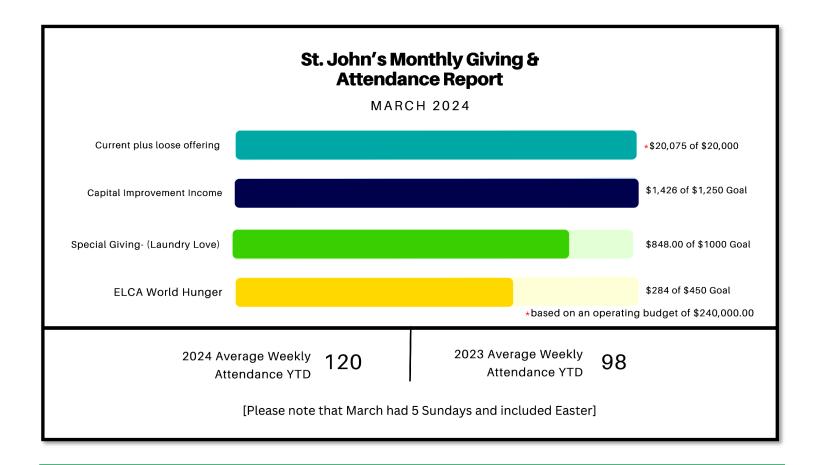
Happening soon:

PAL Lunch Team service - Friday, April 5 - 9:00am-noon - Hanover Area Council of Churches **Packing Young Adult Care Packages** - Sunday, April 7 - 9:00am

Congregation Council - Tuesday, April 16 - 7:00pm

Ruth's Harvest - Wednesday, April 24 -12:30pm





Over the next few months we will be working on the *Giving and Attendance Report* to make it easy to understand and to help provide useful information about our ministry. Please feel free to ask questions and/or provide feed back regarding the report. Let us know if more or less, or other information would be useful to you. And as always, thank you for your continued and generous support of all we do at St. John's, in our community, and throughout God's creation.

Music Notes:

The Junior Choir will rehearse at 8:30am on April 28. All singers in 3rd grade and up are welcome to join! Please contact Donna Renaut at (717) 451-0959 with any questions.



The Chancel Choir will be rehearsing at 9:30am on Sunday mornings, and then singing at 10:00am worship. Please consider joining our group!

The Cherub Choir will rehearse at 8:45am on April 21, May 5 and 12 in the choir room. We welcome and encourage all children age 3 through 2nd grade to join our Cherub Choir. Please contact Barbe Sharrer at (717) 752-5737 with any questions.

Music Sunday will be on Sunday, May 12.

JOIN OUR PAL LUNCH TEAM



(Sharing God's love through food and community)

The Hanover Area Council of Churches serves a hot meal 365 days a year to approximately 130 to 200 people. These meals are lovingly made by member congregations from all across the area.

St. John's PAL Team is scheduled to serve our next meal on Friday, April 5, from 9AM-Noon

If you are interested in joining our PAL team, please give Larry Welty a call at (717) 253-4744.

RUTH'S HARVEST - BERMUDIAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

(We continue to fill 105 bags each month - Thanks for helping to replenish our food supply)

WE NEED PUDDING CUPS AND CHEF BOYARDEE SINGLE SERVE MEALS



Our next Packing date is Wednesday, April 24, at 12:30pm

other <u>single-serve</u> items needed:

Ramen noodle cups, mac-and-cheese cups, juice boxes,
shelf-stable milk boxes, fruit cups, and cereal.

Please place items on the stage in the Fellowship Hall - thanks!

April Special Offering Designation - ELCA World Hunger

Working with and through our congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, <u>ELCA World Hunger</u> is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, community meals to advocacy,

your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.





Matthew 25:35 - ...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Please inform the church office of any changes that can be made to the "Prayer Concerns" list: let us know if someone can be removed from the list, or if their status has changed.

Also, please contact us with additions to the list.

Thank you for faithfully praying for our community.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For homebound members:

Erma Becker, Gloria Breighner, Dorothy Hoffheins, Esther Swope, and Tom Baker

For those serving the larger church:

Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - our missionaries in Tanzania

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:

Sarah Dutrow - in need of healing

Ruth Edwards - having heart problems

James Gallagher—in need of healing

Fran Luellon—preparing for surgery

Christine Uhercik - preparing for surgery

Dr. Anne Quinn - receiving care for ALS

Bobbie Bevas - recovering from abdominal surgery

Linda Utz - receiving care for pneumonia and kidneys

Scarlette (great granddaughter of Bonnie Staub) - recvng. care from home

Michael Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving hospice care

Minnie Lawrence (Iva Breighner's sister) - recovering from neck surgery

Jack Leib - undergoing tests at Hershey Medical Center

Iva Breighner - recovering at home from knee replacement surgery (on 4/1)

Lisa Wildasin - receiving treatment for MS

For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:

Jane Miller (mother of Corey Miller) - receiving care for cancer

Polly Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving care for breast cancer

Rev. Julie Beall (Zwingli UCC) - receiving care for cancer that has returned

Kim H. - receiving care for lymphoma

Carol Brown - receiving care for cancer

Audrey Watts - receiving care for cancer

Larry LaRue - receiving care for prostate cancer

Patsy Leese - receiving care for cancer

Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer

Chuck Gabrielson—receiving care for lung cancer

Janet Heflin (friend of Lorna Runk) - receiving care for cancer

Daniel Bowers (nephew of Lorna Runk) - receiving care for prostate cancer

Wesley Beam is 4 yrs. old and battling DPIG brain cancer

