

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



Introduction

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

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.

Sunday, April 14, 2024 "Of the Land and Seasons"

PRELUDE

"Come Away to the Skies"

Harris

THE EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ has Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE GATHERING

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the 🕂 Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have denied our need for daily new birth. We have scorned the means you provide to fertilize and cultivate our growth in grace. We have closed ourselves to pollination by others of your redeeming, particularly those whose fruits differ from ours. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, revive us, and open us to your gifts, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

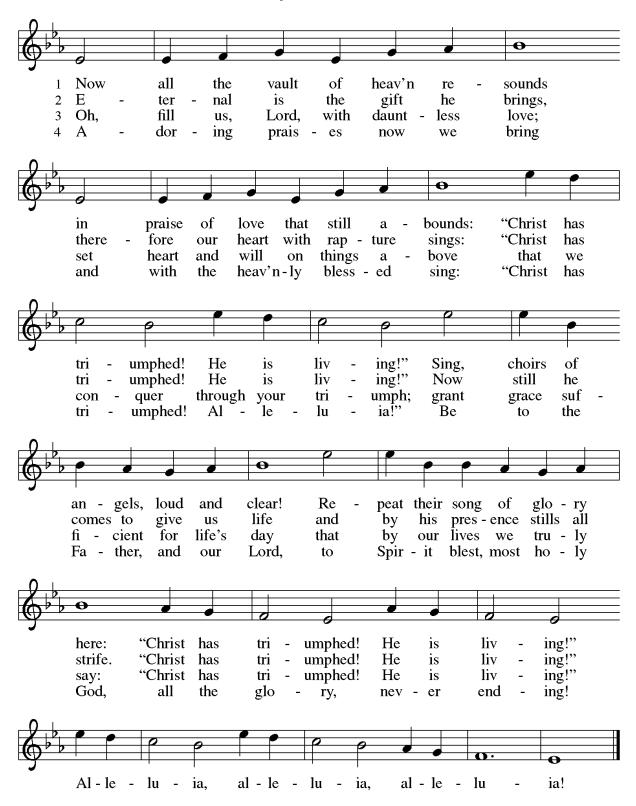
In the name of 🕂 Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

"Now, All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" vs. 1 & 3



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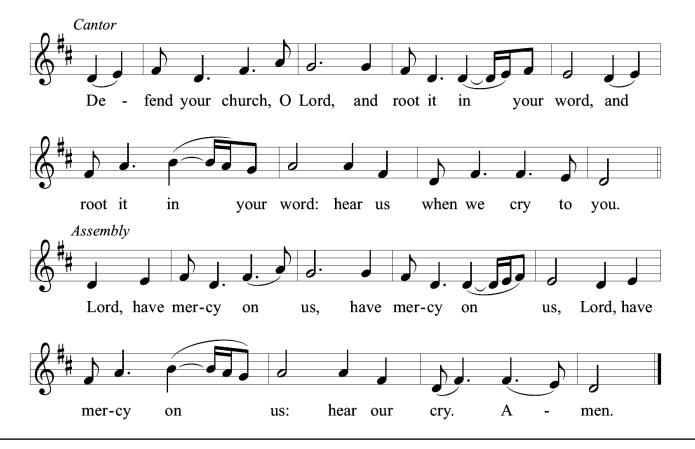
***THE GREETING**

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.

*KYRIE (Congregation sings parts labeled "Assembly")



continued on p. 5



*HYMN OF PRAISE "Oh, Sing of God's Great Victory" vs. 1 & 4 (congregation sings refrain)



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Let us pray....*O God, you give birth to all creation. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause your word to bring forth new life in us, awaken our slumbering hearts, and enliven us with a patient and expectant hope; that we may break forth in blossom and stalk, full of the promise of fruit and grain; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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



SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

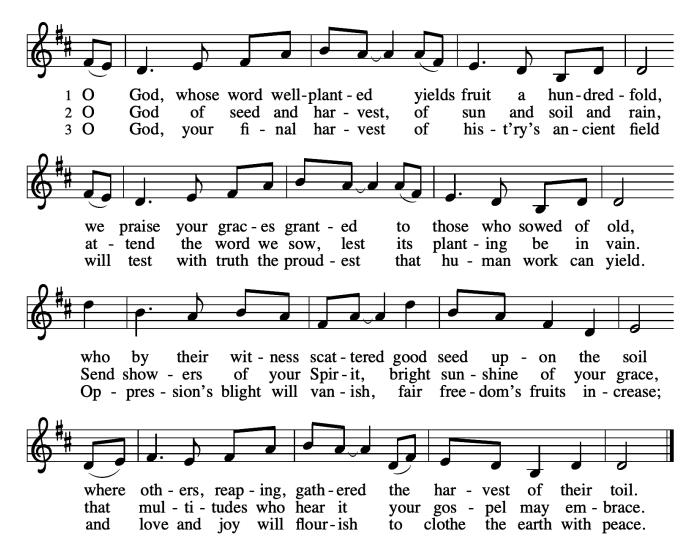
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

*GRADUAL HYMN (sing vs. 1)

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing this hymn.



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 24th Chapter. **Glory to you, Oh Lord.**

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." (continued) ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Pastor Shawn Berkebile

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Touch That Soothes and Heals"

ACS 939



***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 THE CHURCH**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *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

We encourage you to please mail in your offering or follow the QR code to the right to donate online. You can also go to our church website <u>www.stjohnsatown.com</u> and make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation.



Chancel Choir

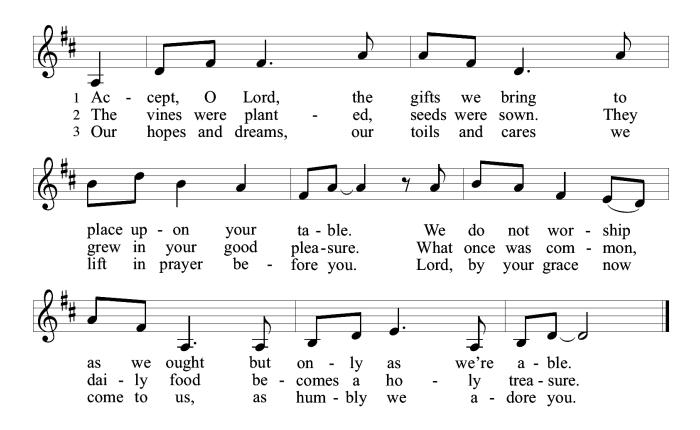
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Cast Your Cares Upon the Lord"

***THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**



***OFFERTORY HYMN**

"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray... Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

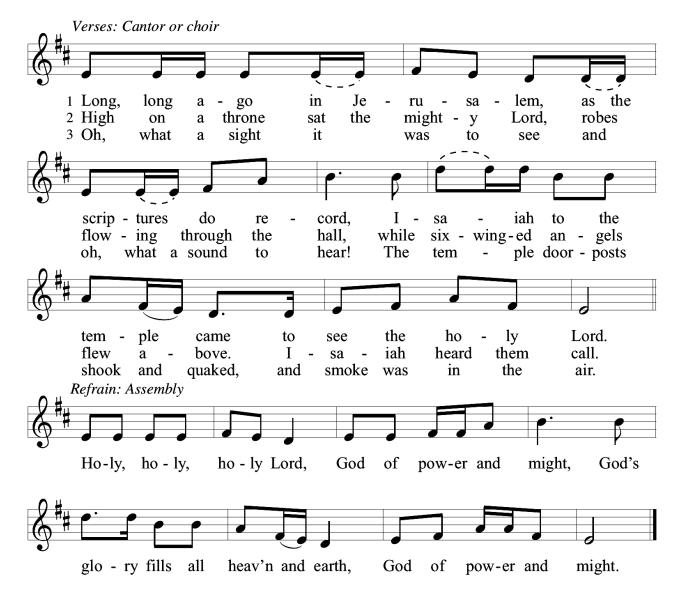
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.



*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:



***SANCTUS** (congregation sings refrain)

***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.

***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.

***BREAKING THE BREAD**

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. **Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In Christ's presence there is fulness of joy. Come to the banquet.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

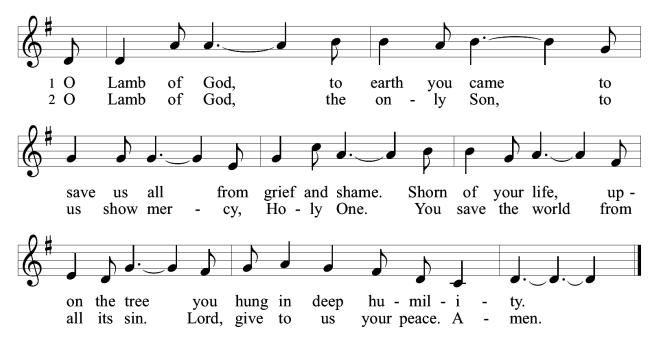
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.



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.

"Oh Lamb of God, to Earth You Came"



***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

*POST COMMUNION HYMN "O Lord of the Blossom" vs. 1

1 0Lord of the blos-som, O God of the seed. 0 gra-cious pro -2 O Lord of the har - vest, O God of the feast, where sor-rows are for all hu-man need, you have nour-ished our faith vi - der at your van-quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your or-chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your Lord of the face. 0 grain - field, God of the 0 Sing praise to the ther, sing to the love. Fa praise bread and you've fed vine, us your pres - ence in in Spir - it. Son, sing praise to the Praise God, Three in wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest ar - bor and to us One! You have made one peo - ple you've fed the us by H gos - pel, your shown us the word for us plow, and now. hand, Ο Lord of the heav-ens, 0 God of the land.



***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray....Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**



***THE BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

ELW 535



*THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We Will!

POSTLUDE

"The Risen Christ"



Peterson



+



The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of our 46th wedding anniversary, by Drew and Helen Warner.

Special thanks today to Deacon Amy, Norbert Mamet, and Tim Bupp for sharing their musical gifts with us!



Serving St. John's - April 14

Head Usher	(volunteer needed)
Communion Assistant	Barb Colandreo
Acolyte	(volunteer needed)
GreetersBob ar	id Wanda Wagaman
Communion Assistant AcolyteBob ar Lector	Autumn Cole
11	

Serving St. John's - April 21

Head Usher	Alison Baker
Communior	Assistant (volunteer needed)
Acolyte	(volunteer needed)
Greeters	(volunteer needed) Autumn Cole and Gracie Lehman
Lector	(volunteer needed)

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



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 Mary Lawrence - receiving care at home 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 Robert Maher - receiving care at hospital for water on his chest Scarlette (great granddaughter of Bonnie Staub) - receiving 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 James Mauk - receiving care for cancer Carol Brown - receiving care for cancer Audrey Watts - receiving care for cancer Larry LaRue - receiving care for prostate cancer Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer Janet Heflin - receiving care for cancer Daniel Bowers (nephew of Lorna Runk) - receiving care for prostate cancer Let us continue to pray for everyone affected by war in the Middle-East and in Ukraine for those experiencing violence and living in fear, those who have lost loved ones, the displaced and the hungry, those working for peace, those providing aid, and many others. May our loving God be present with you all.

Happening soon:

Congregation Council - Tuesday, April 16 - 7:00pm *Ruth's Harvest* - Wednesday, April 24 -12:30pm *Movie on the Lawn -* Friday, April 26 - time TBA

Music Notes

The Junior Choir will rehearse on <u>Sunday, April 28 at 8:30am.</u> All singers in 3rd grade and up are welcome to join! Please contact Donna Renaut (717-451-0959) if you have any questions.



The Chancel Choir will have anthems during the 10am worship service throughout the year. Rehearsal for the anthem of the day is in the choir room at 9:30am. Please feel free to join when you're available.

The Cherub Choir will rehearse at <u>8:45am on April 21, May 5 and 12</u> 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.



Hospital Admittance

If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please be sure to identify St. John's, Abbottstown, as your congregation. According to HIPAA regulation,

if you provide this information to the Hospital, they will notify us of your admittance. Thank You!



Altar Flowers

We are currently looking for flower sponsors for June and beyond. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or call St. John's (717-259-0796) to sponsor your flowers today. Altar Flowers cost \$30. Thank you!

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.

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:45am – Sunday morning "Coffee Break" fellowship time

9:00am – Sunday School at St. John's Lutheran Church

10:00am – In-Person Worship at St. John's Lutheran Church

10:00am – Remote Worship – You Tube, Facebook, and your telephone (toll free):

You Tube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLYusK7PV28KOqSVH6xpbFA

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsAbbottstown/live

PhoneLiveStreaming - dial toll-free from your telephone to listen live at 10:00am, or to hear the previously recorded service at **(833) 435-4458** Thank you for helping us with your generous donations. Our Sunday School youth were able to assemble 14 care packages for our young adults last Sunday. St. John's - Sharing the Love!













MOVIE ON THE LAWN Youth Fundraiser

s'John's

NIGHT Friday, April 26

Fam

Invites Everyone to Come for...

St. John's Lutheran Church 100 East, Abbottstown PA

Bring the family and friends, blanket and lawn chairs. Food and candy will be available for purchase.

For more information contact the church at 717-259-0796