



# ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 E Water Street

Abbottstown, PA 17301

717-259-0796

[www.stjohnsatown.com](http://www.stjohnsatown.com)



## Introduction

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

## 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, that were consecrated to be used in the pews or in the home, please help yourself. If you need these communion elements, please take a few from the rear of the church or stop by the church office.*

**April 21, 2024**

**PRELUDE**

*“Two Meditations on Llanfair”*

arr. Thomas Keesecker

## **THE EASTER GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ has Risen!

**He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME**

~Special thanks to Tim Bupp for leading us in music today

### ***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.

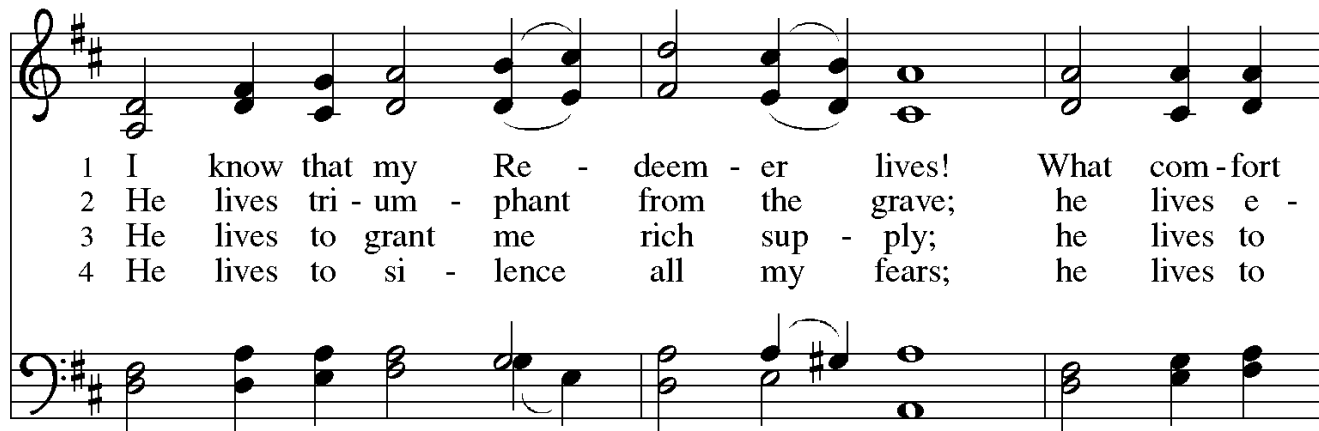
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!


**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**



*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" vs. 1, 2, & 8*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



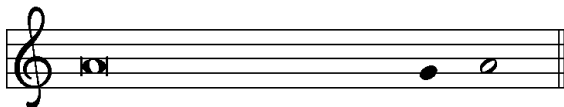
once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
what joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

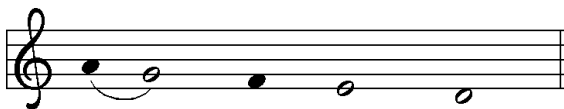
**\*THE GREETING**

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.**

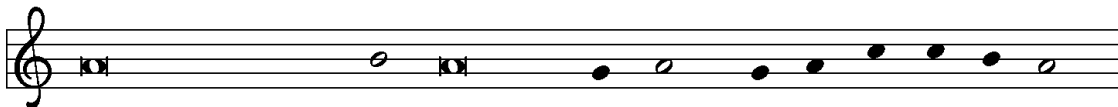
# \*THE KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



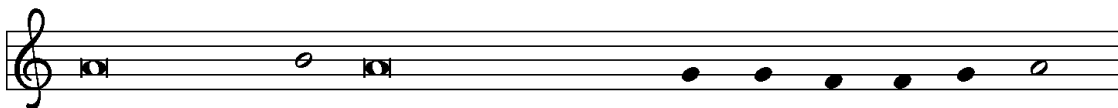
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



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



2 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.

*Final refrain*



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.

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

### *THE WORD*

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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 silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

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

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

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

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

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

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

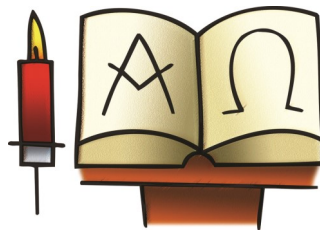
### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



## \*GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 15th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Shawn Berkebile**



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*“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” vs. 1 & 5*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus  
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: “I am with you ev - er - more”?  
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”

## **\*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](http://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!



## **THE OFFERTORY**

*"The Lord is My Shepherd"*

arr. Anthony Giamanco

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

ELW 183



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

## \*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 our past homebound members and in honor of those who are currently homebound,  
by Linda and Richard Boyer.

## \*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 our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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:

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

## **\*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.**

## **\*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**

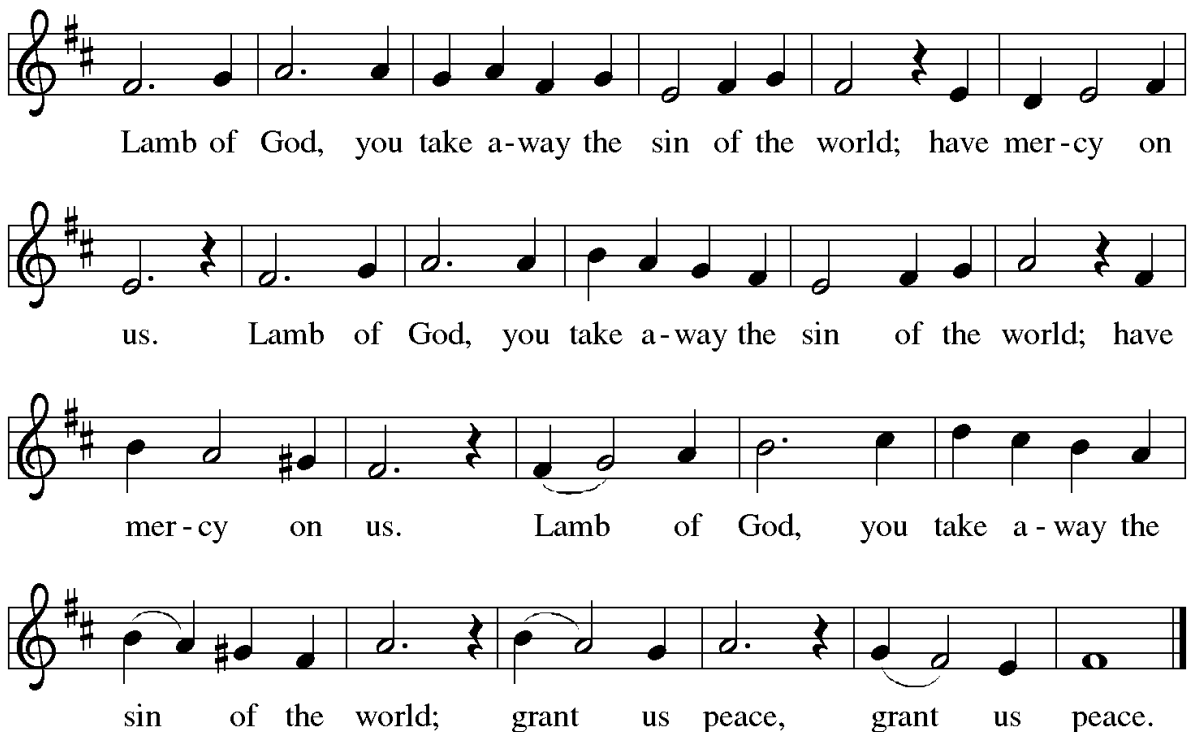
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



*The flower arrangement on the organ today is presented to the Glory of God  
and in honor of the 46th wedding anniversary of Drew and Helen Warner.*

## \*LAMB OF GOD



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.

## \*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*

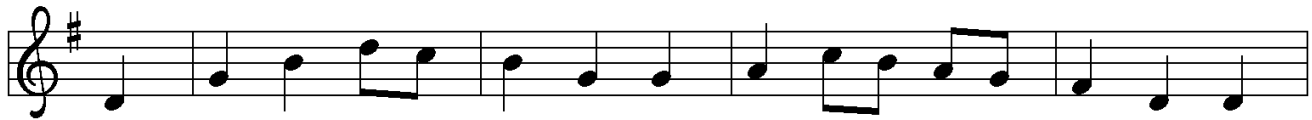
### \*THE BLESSING

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.**





1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



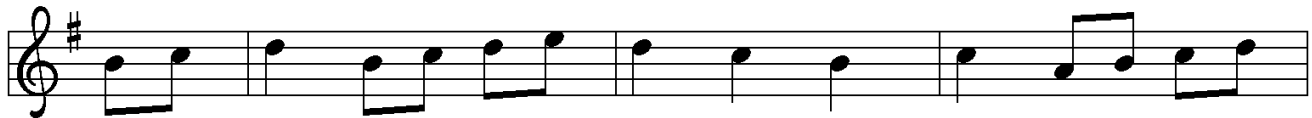
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## \*THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We Will!

## POSTLUDE

*"Postlude on Ash Grove"*

arr. Carol Tornquist

+

+

+

### Serving St. John's - April 21

Head Usher ..... Alison Baker  
Communion Assistant ..... Warren Smith  
Acolyte .....  
Greeters ..... Autumn Cole and Gracie Lehman  
Lector ..... Warren Smith

### Serving St. John's - April 28

Head Usher ..... Barb Colandreo  
Communion Assistant ..... Lori Slothour  
Acolyte ..... Clara Berkebile  
Greeters ..... (volunteer needed)  
Lector ..... Rachel Berkebile

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  
June 30 are now available***



## Happening soon:

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

***Movie on the Lawn*** - Friday, April 26 - 7:00pm / near dusk

***Ben Boellner concert*** - Sunday, April 28 - 4:00pm - St. Matthews, Hanover (see p.22 for info)

***Abbottstown Food Pantry*** - Thursday, May 2 - 3:00-5:00pm

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

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

Jack Leib - receiving care for cancer at Hershey Medical Center

St. John's Invites Everyone to Come for...

**FREE Popcorn!**

*Family*

# MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, April 26**

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

**MOVIE ON THE LAWN**  
Youth Fundraiser

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

## **Music Notes :**

**The Junior Choir** will rehearse at 8:30am on April 28 and May 12. 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 Sundays, April 28 and May 5. We will also rehearse on May 8 at 7:00pm, and May 12 at 9:15am.

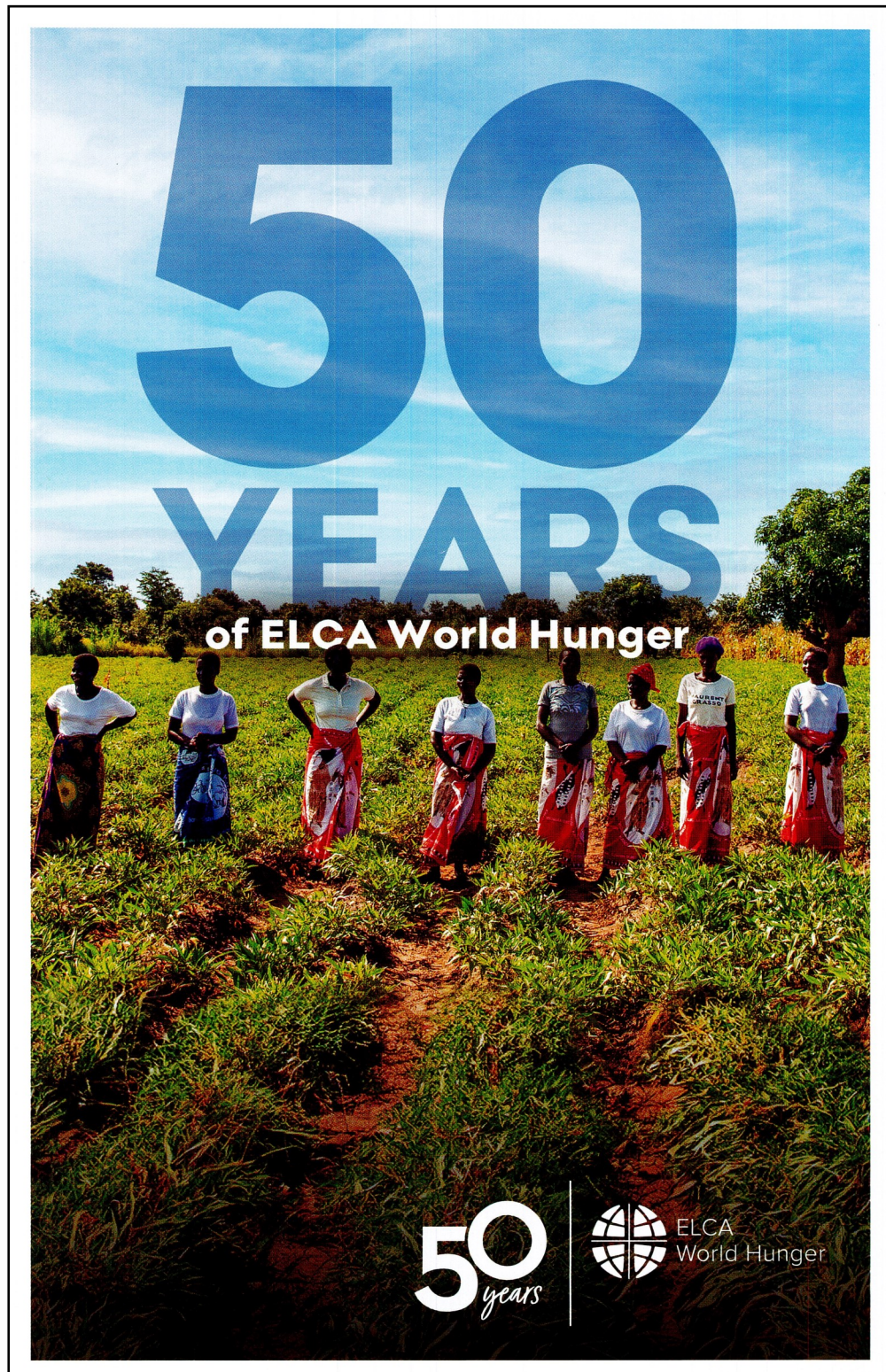
**The Cherub Choir** will rehearse at 8:45am on April 21, May 5 and 12 in the choir room. We welcome and encourage all children age 3 through 2nd grade to join our Cherub Choir. Please contact Barbe Sharrer at (717) 752-5737 with any questions.

**Music Sunday** will be on Sunday, May 12.



## 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, [ELCA World Hunger](#) 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.





**“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”**

—1 John 3:18

**For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger.**

Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Will you join us?

**OUR WORK**



**— CURRENT CHALLENGES —**



As many as **828 million people** worldwide live in hunger.

In the United States, **1 in 8 people** isn’t sure where their next meal will come from.



**The root causes of hunger** are complex and include rising costs, global conflict, climate change and the lingering impact of COVID-19.

ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in 64 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to specific challenges. With your help, our church can grow its support for our most vulnerable neighbors in a changing world.

**“I can proudly say I am now able to run successful projects without fear of failure. My family lacks nothing, I have all that I once dreamt of having, and I am a proud mother.”**

—RUMBIDZAI TOMU, Zimbabwe

With support from ELCA World Hunger, Rumbidzai received the tools and training she needed to begin raising poultry. Her family can now afford to eat three meals a day, and she has been able to send her four children to school.



**HEALTH CARE & DISEASE PREVENTION**



**INCOME & SAVINGS**



**EDUCATION & TRAINING**



Join us and write the story of our next 50 years together as, boldly and hopefully, we pursue God's promise of a just world where all are fed.

Visit [ELCA.org/WH50](http://ELCA.org/WH50) for more resources and information on how to get involved.



## HOW TO GIVE

### MAIL

Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and mail to:

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

### ONLINE

[ELCA.org/hunger/donate](http://ELCA.org/hunger/donate)

### SUNDAY OFFERING

Give through your congregation's Sunday offering. Make checks payable to your congregation and write "ELCA World Hunger" on the memo line.

For other ways to give, please call 800-638-3522 or email [giving@elca.org](mailto:giving@elca.org).



ELCASJ1501

**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.

## 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 single-serve 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!***

An invitation from our siblings in  
Christ at St. Matthews, Hanover



# St. Matthew

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

30 West Chestnut Street ♦ Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331  
(717) 637-7101 Fax: (717) 637-4961 info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman  
*Lead Pastor*  
Tim Peck  
*Youth Ministry*

Rev. Faye Snyder  
*Visitation Pastor*  
Melissa Smith  
*Children and Family Ministry*

Rev. Mark Vitalis Hoffman  
*Interim Teaching Pastor*  
Debra Smith  
*Associate Minister of Music*  
Benjamin Boellner  
*Minister of Music*

April 10, 2024

Dear Music Directors, Pastors and Administrative Assistants,

We want to invite you and your congregation to what promises to be an excellent concert featuring Ben Boellner, The Minister of Music and Organist here at St. Matthew. in Hanover. Tickets for concerts are no longer needed. We are excited and honored to be able to bring fine church musicians and artists to our area. We hope our audience is inspired and uplifted by the music. Thank you for your assistance by sharing this announcement in your church communications in the coming weeks.

Benjamin Boellner,  
Minister of Music  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church



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### St. Matthew Lutheran Church to Present Organist, Ben Boellner in Concert

The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Concert Series will present Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music and Organist here at St. Matthew in concert on Sunday, April 28 at 4:00 p.m. The church is located at 30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA. Tickets are NOT required for admission. A free-will offering will be taken to assist with the concert costs. The doors open at 3:30 p.m. A reception will follow the program.

Our next concert will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. and will feature Dan Miller, world-renowned concert organist from Oregon. Tickets are NOT required for admission. Additional information can be found on the church website - [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org).

The St. Matthew Austin pipe organ with 14,470 pipes is one of the ten largest pipe organs in the world. Please check our website for more information on this glorious instrument.