



ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 E Water Street
Abbottstown, PA 17301
717-259-0796



Introduction

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and 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 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.

March 3, 2024

PRELUDE

"In the Shadow of the Cross"

Glyncannon

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE GATHERING

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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,
who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.


Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✙ Jesus Christ.
Amen.



"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" vs. 1 & 4



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

*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



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray...Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



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THE WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 19

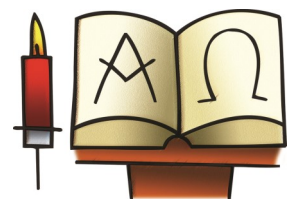


¹The heavens declare the glo-¹ ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.

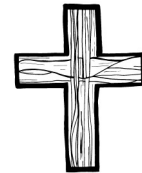
²**One day tells its tale¹ to another,**
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.

³Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,

(continued)



- ⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends ¹ of the world, where God has pitched a tent ¹ for the sun.**
- ⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out ¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to ¹ run its course.
- ⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of ¹ it again; nothing is hidden from its ¹ burning heat.**
- ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- ¹ lives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to ¹ the simple.
- ⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- ¹ joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light ¹ to the eyes.**
- ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- ¹ dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous ¹ altogether.
- ¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than ¹ much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey ¹ in the comb.**
- ¹¹By them also is your ser- ¹ vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is ¹ great reward.
- ¹²**Who can detect one's ¹ own offenses?
Cleanse me from my ¹ secret faults.**
- ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion ¹ over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a ¹ great offense.
- ¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable ¹ in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and ¹ my redeemer.**

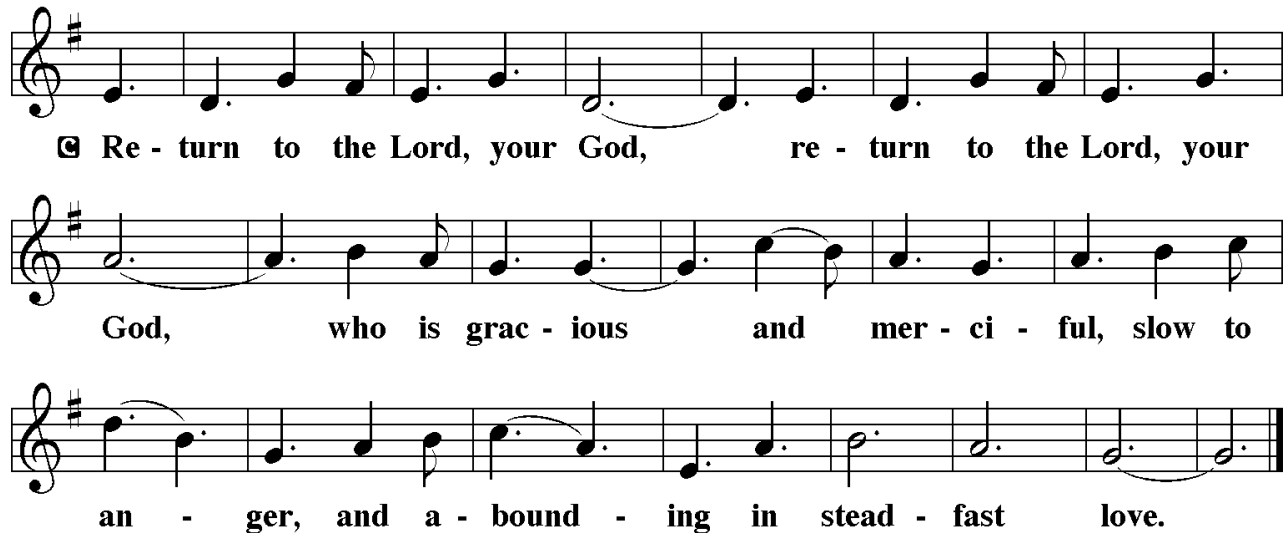


SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

- ¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 2nd Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

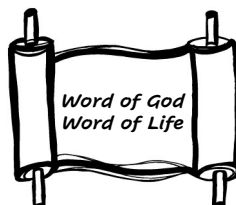
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Shawn Berkebile

SERMON

Deacon Amy Mambu





1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

***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**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"My Soul, My Life, My All"

Chancel Choir

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

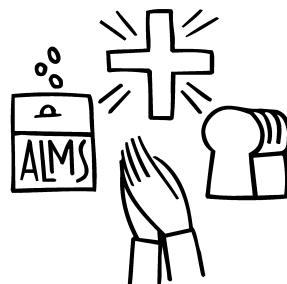
*OFFERTORY RESPONSE



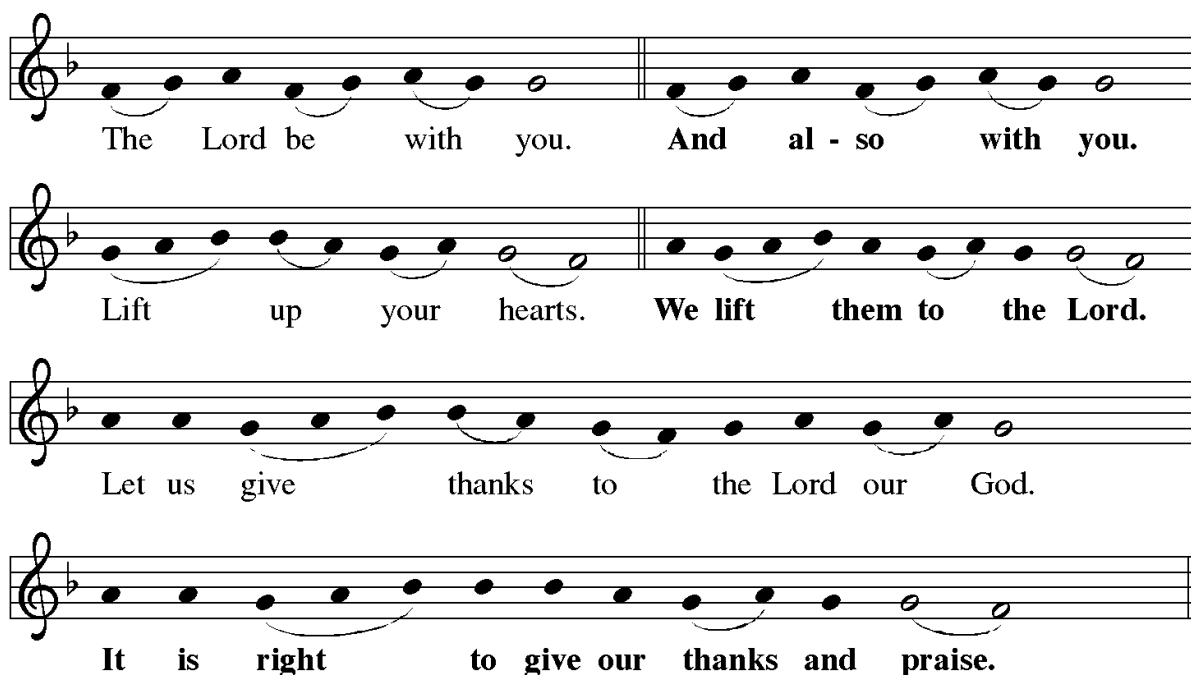
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray... Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.



*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

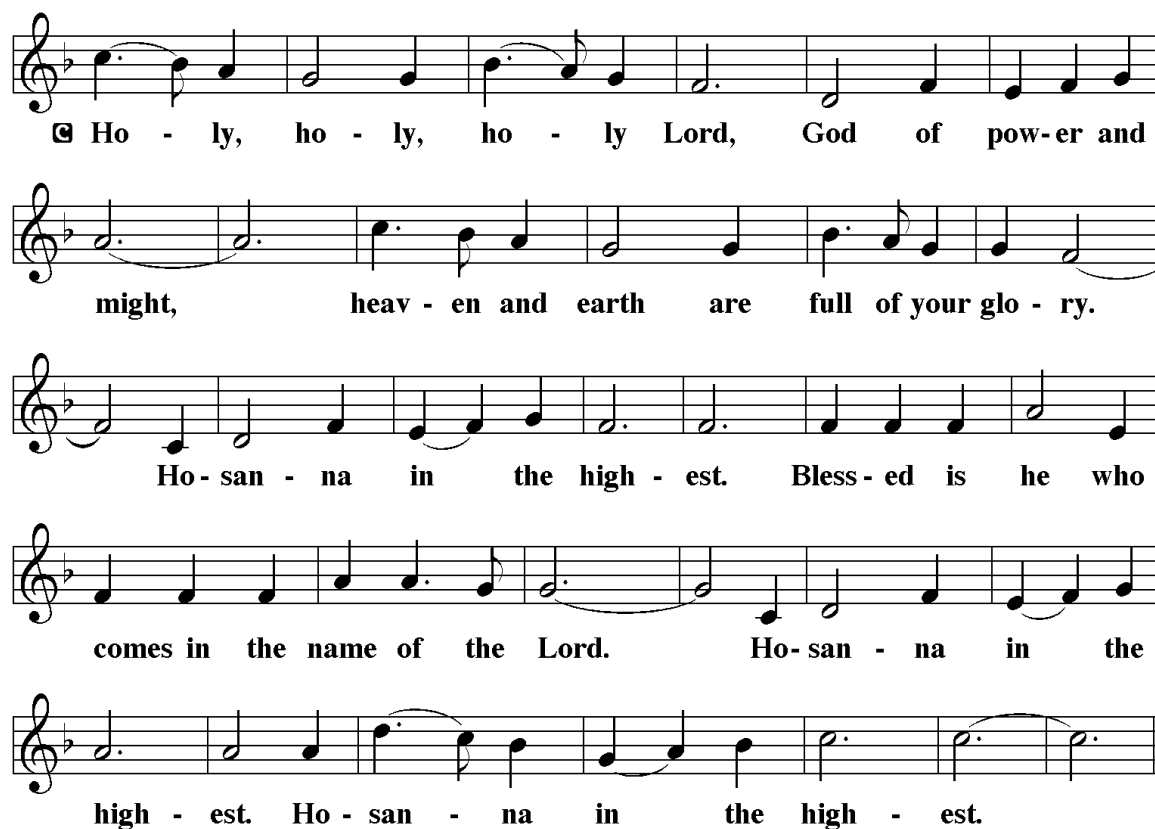
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☞ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

might, heav - en 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. 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.

*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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!



☒ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



*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...Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

THE SENDING

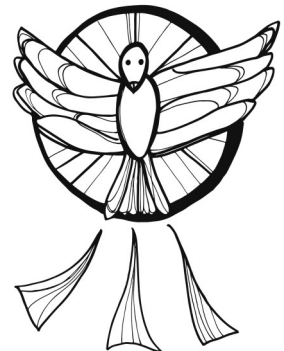
*THE BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.



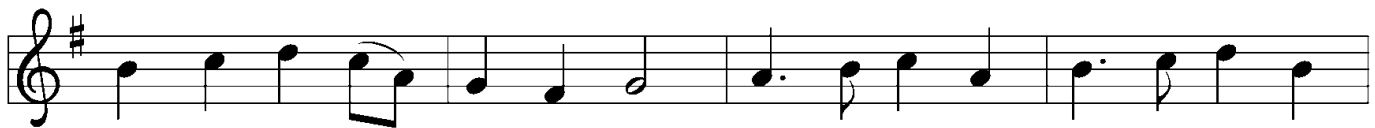
*The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of
Tammy Cutshall's 50th birthday, by Linda and Richard Boyer.*



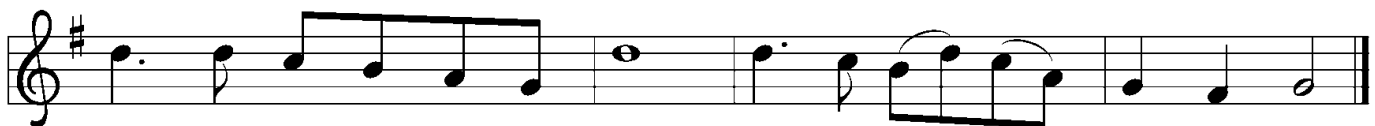
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace knowing God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Thanks be to God. We Will!

POSTLUDE*"From Thy Throne So High"***Gluck**

Serving St. John's - March 3

Head Usher Joe Rickrode
Communion Assistant Barb Colandreo
Acolyte
Greeters Autumn Cole and Gracie Lehman
Lector Mike Omlor

Serving St. John's - March 10

Head Usher Alison Baker
Communion Assistant Michele Trent
Acolyte Emma Lewis
Greeters Michele Trent
Lector Jim Hoff

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:

Laundry Love - Tuesday, March 5 - 5:30-7:00pm - Spring Forge Plaza, Spring Grove

Mid-week Lenten Bible Study - Wednesday, March 6 - 10:00-10:45am (on Zoom)

Hosting mid-week Lenten Luncheon at St. John's - Wednesday, March 6 - 12:00-1:00pm

Abbottstown Food Pantry - Thursday, March 7 - 3:00-5:00pm

Good News and Brews - Tuesday, March 12 - 6:30-8:00pm - Altland House

Youth Lock-in - Saturday, March 16-Sunday, March 17 - for grades 6-12

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**



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 - Tanzania

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:

Sally Grim - recovering from surgery

Sarah Dutrow - in need of healing

Carol Brown - in need of healing

Christine Uhercik - preparing for surgery

Bobbie Bevas - recovering from abdominal surgery

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

Jean Baker - recovering at home following knee replacement surgery

Ruth Edwards - having heart problems

Dr. Anne Quinn - receiving care for ALS

Linda Utz - receiving care for pneumonia and kidneys

Mandy Haugh - recovering from surgery

Ethel Swope - recovering from an upper respiratory infection and covid-19

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



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

Larry LaRue - receiving care for prostate cancer

Patsy Leese - receiving care for cancer

Kandice March - receiving care for cancer and ongoing tests

Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer

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

Mike Hoff (friend of J. Tyson family) - receiving care for lung cancer

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

Wesley Beam is 4 yrs. old and battling DFIG brain cancer - please pray for Wesley and his family as they participate in clinical trials trying to find a cure

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.

Music Notes :

The Junior Choir will rehearse at 8:30am on March 10.

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 singing weekly Sunday anthems with rehearsal on Sundays at 9:30am.

The Cherub Choir will rehearse at 8:45am on March 17 and 24 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.

St. John's Ringers will have their next rehearsal on Tuesday, March 19.



Altar Flowers

We are looking for sponsors for our Altar Flowers.

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.*

(Sponsors needed for 3 Sundays in March)



**YOUTH
LOCK-IN**

**Saturday, March 16
to
Sunday, March 17**

*Sign Up on
the Youth
Bulletin Board*

*Love Faith
Jesus Hope*

FoodPantry
Thursday, March 7, 3:00-5:00pm

Good News & Brews
Second Tuesday of the Month

at the Altland House
(1 Center Square, Abbottstown)

6:30pm to 8:00pm

Good News and Brews is a time of faithful discussion and enjoying good food. Pastor Shawn and other faith leaders will bring a conversation to the table for discussion and those that gather can order off the menu at the Altland House.

RUTH'S HARVEST BERMUDIAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

**WE NEED PUDDING CUPS/ SNACK PAKS &
CHEF BOYARDEE SINGLE SERVE MEALS**

Our next Packing date is Wednesday, March 20 at 1:15pm

other single-serve items needed:

fruit cups, veggie cups, juice boxes, milk, and cereal

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



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.



Laundry Love is our March Special Offering Designation. Also, join us this Tuesday to help spread the love.



Help us share some love with the young adults of our congregation! We will be sending out care packages including gift cards and snacks in April. Visit the trees in the fellowship hall to see what items we're

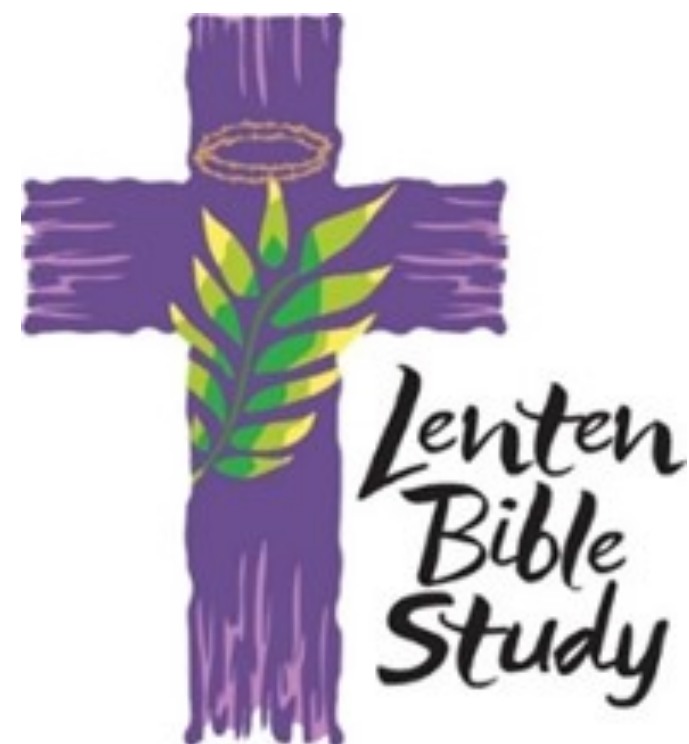
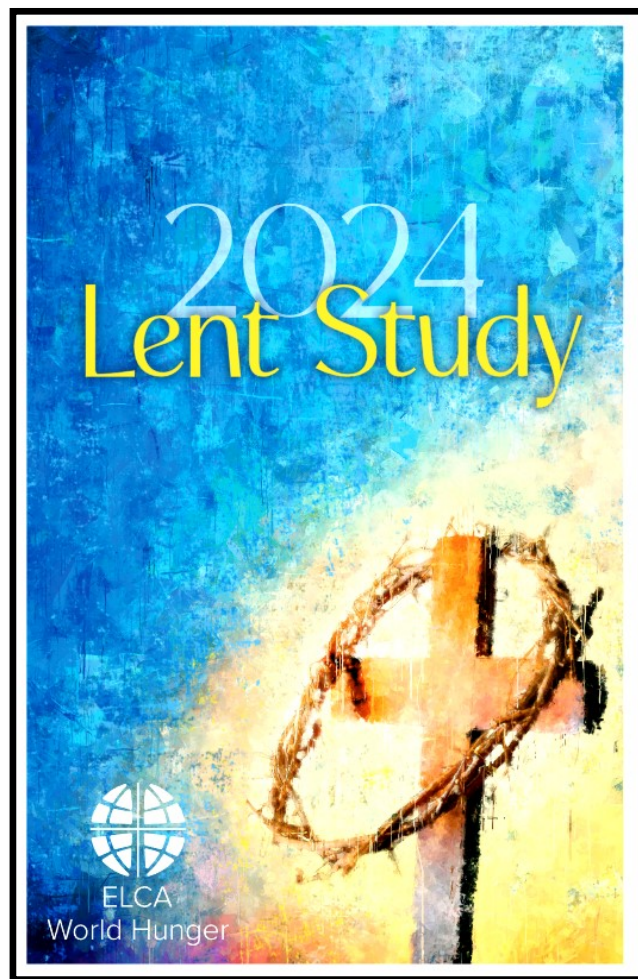
looking for - take a tag (or a few) and purchase that item for our young adults. Drop off gift cards or monetary donations in the office, and place snacks on the stage in the fellowship hall. Collection happening through Easter Sunday.

Thank you for helping us shower our young adults with love!

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!



Lenten Bible Study Begins Wednesday, February 21

Join Pastor Shawn on Wednesday mornings in Lent from 10:00am to 10:45am as we dive deeper into scripture and study the 2024 Lent Study from ELCA World Hunger. Free copies of the devotional are available in the Fellowship Hall and sanctuary. This Bible Study will be on ZOOM; please use the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9078365134?pwd=OEE2K002VkY4b0JCeWx5T2U3YmRRQT09&omn=85997442827>

Meeting ID: 907 836 5134

Passcode: 407818