

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



#### Introduction

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

# **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.

**PRELUDE** 

"Communion in Christ"

Kendall

#### 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!

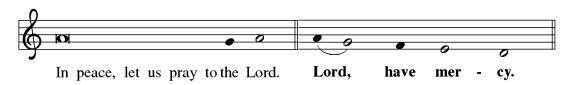
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



# \*THE GREETING

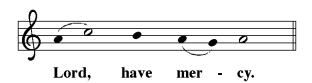
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

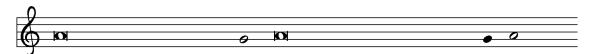
# \*THE KYRIE



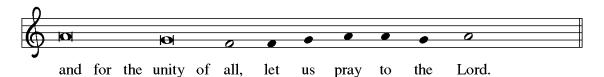


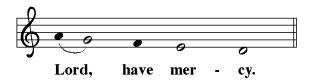
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





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... O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE WORD

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

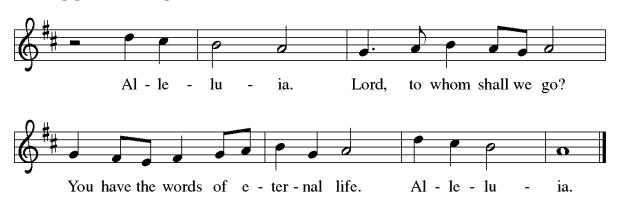
# SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.** 



#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 15th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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



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#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **Pastor Shawn Berkebile**

# **SERMON**

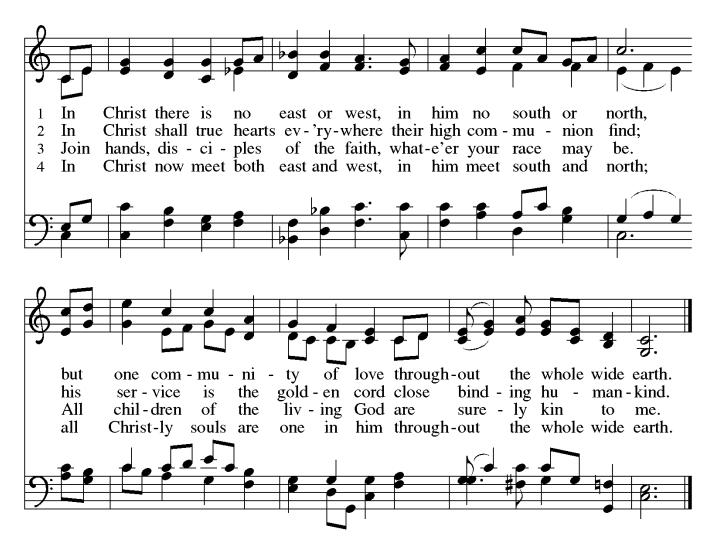
# **Deacon Amy Mambu**



#### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW 650** 

#### "In Christ There is No East or West"



Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

#### \*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!



#### "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

# \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

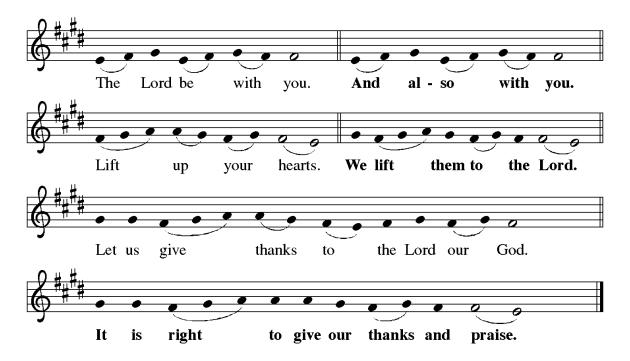
**ELW 183** 



# \*OFFERING PRAYER

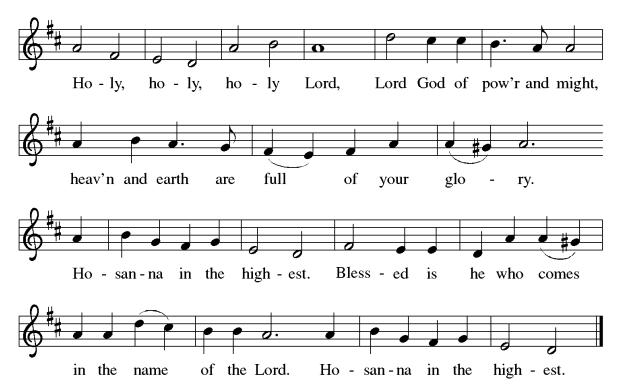
Let us pray... Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

# \*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 Jesus 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.

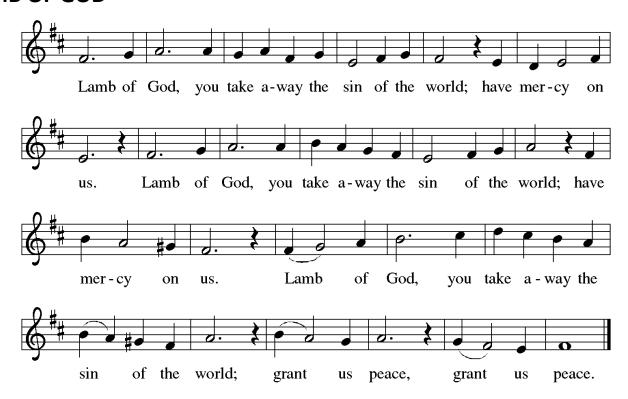
# **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

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



The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Linda and Richard DeFraties.

#### \*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.





- 1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
- 2 Let those re fuse to sing who nev er knew our God;
- 3 The hill of Zi on yields a thou-sand sa cred sweets
- 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev-'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in with a song the heav'n - ly chil - dren of King, but chil - dren but of the the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore fore we reach we reach the we're march-ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march-ing through Im -



sweet ac-cord and thus sur-round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne. heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad. heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold-en streets, or walk the gold-en streets. man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

# \*THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We Will!

**POSTLUDE** 

"Grand Triumphal Chorus"

Gulimant/Chesterton

+

# Serving St. John's - May 5

Head Usher ....... Brent Sauter

Communion Assistant ...... Shannon McEvers

Acolyte ...... Kenley McEvers

Greeters ..... Autumn Cole and Gracie Lehman

Lector ..... Mike Omlor

# Serving St. John's - May 12

 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:**

Church Office closed - Monday, May 6 - the office will be open Tues/Wed/Thurs this week

Laundry Love - Tuesday, May 7 - 5:30-7:00pm - The Sudz, Spring Forge Plaza

Chancel Choir rehearsal - Wednesday, May 8 - 7:00pm

Sunday School ends through the summer- Sunday, May 12

Music Sunday - Sunday, May 12

Good News and Brews - Tuesday, May 14 - 6:30-8:00pm - Altland House

PAL Lunch Team service - Friday, May 17 - 9:00am-noon - Hanover Area Council of Churches



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

Mary Lawrence - receiving care at home

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

Iva Breighner - recovering well at home from knee replacement surgery

Lisa Wildasin - receiving treatment for MS

# For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:

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

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

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

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

Larry LaRue - receiving care for prostate cancer

Kim H. - receiving care for lymphoma

Audrey Watts - receiving care for cancer

Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer

Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer | Janet Heflin - receiving care for cancer

James Mauk - receiving care for cancer and his heart

Jack Leib - receiving care for cancer at Hershey Medical Center

Irelyn Sprenkle is 10 yrs-old and receiving care for kidney cancer at Hershey Medical Center

Wesley Beam is 4 yrs-old and receiving care for DPIG brain cancer



Carol Brown - receiving care for cancer

Patsy Leese - receiving care for cancer

Sharon Ingram - receiving care for cancer

#### Music Notes:

**The Junior Choir** will rehearse at 8:30am on 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 Sunday, 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 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.



#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

We are looking for sponsors for our Altar Flowers. Please see sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the office at 717-259-0796 to sponsor your flowers today. Altar flowers cost \$30.

Our next open date is June 9th.



We hope you can join us on May 14 at the Altland House.





Join us on May 7 and help to spread the love!



# 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, May 17, 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 final packing date for this school year is Wednesday, May 22, 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!

**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.





HELP US CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

AND ZOEY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY BY

DONATING ANY SIZE DIAPER OR DIAPER

WIPES DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

Please place your donations on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. York and Adams County babies thank you for participating in their "cover up"!



# This Week In Our Neighborhood

Family movie night...







...thank you for your generous donations in support of our youth going to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!







# May Special Offering Designation Lutheran Camping Corporation

The Church, in a place and time apart...Where God's presence is experienced, Faith is renewed, Christ's love is felt, and the Church is strengthened for the service and proclamation of the Gospel!

The Lutheran Camping Corporation carries out its mission as a gracious expression of God's love. The heart of that mission is to:

- Strengthen the faith of children, youth, adults, and families;
- •Offer opportunities for children and youth to grow in Christian leadership;
- •Provide outdoor ministry experiences to all, regardless of their financial capacity;
- Foster Christian fellowship;
- •Nurture God's children of all ages as good stewards of all God's good gifts.



Nawakwa Kirchenwald Wittel Farm

# Summer Camp Registration Now Open!

It might just be the best week you've ever had! Don't wait, sign up today for a summer camp program at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa.

Youth Camp, Family Camp, Elder Camp...something for everybody!! Spirit, adventure, growth, acceptance! We hope to see EVERYONE at camp!

# **Register Today!**

New for 2024 - Camp End Times - The camp week will end on Friday at 6:30pm.

\*\*\* PROGRAMS ARE FILLING UP...don't wait register today!

Registration/information brochures are available in the Fellowship Hall.

For even more Information, or to register online,

visit - https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/