



## **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**April 28, 2024**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Bath, PA**

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Gerald & Rose W.by  
Sarajane & John P. and Family**

**Bulletins Presented In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Wallace D.by  
Michelle S.**

Prelude: Intermezzo on “*Now the Green Blade Riseth*” arr. John S. Dixon

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

\*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

\*C: **Amen.**

\*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*C: **Amen.**

\*P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

\*P: Most merciful God,

\*C: **we confess that we are in bondage 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 not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

\*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

\*C: **Amen**

**\*Hymn LBW #143** *“Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds”*  
(8am vs 1-2)

**\*The Greeting**

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

**\*C:** **And also with you.**

**\* Prayer of the Day**

**\*P:** **O God,**

**\*C:** **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.**

**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.

## **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.

**\*Gospel Verse (sung)**

p. 62

***“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia”***

(3)

\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

\*C: (sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

\***Gospel: John 15:1-8**

[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.”

\*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

\*C: (sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Sermon/Sermon**

\***Hymn LBW #148 “Now The Green Blade Rises”** (8am vs 1-2)

\***Apostles Creed**

p. 65

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and  
born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into  
hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He  
will come again 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**

## \*The Peace

\*P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

\*C: **And also, with you.**

*The Peace will be shared between the Pastor and Congregation.*

## \*Offering

*The Offering may be dropped off at the beginning or end of the worship service.*

*We will thank God for our blessings, including the ability to give an offering for the work of God's kingdom.*

## Music at the Offering:

(8:00 am) "Let All Things Now Living"

arr. Pepper Choplin

(10:15 am) "Let Us Love One Another"

arr. A. B. Sherman

## \*Offertory Prayer

\*P: Risen One,

\*C: **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**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

\*P: 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.*

\*V: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. Lord, in your mercy,

\*C: **hear our prayer.**

\*V: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted places. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

\*C: **hear our prayer.**

\*V: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: hear our prayer.**

\*V: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: hear our prayer.**

\*V: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

\*V: We give thanks for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: hear our prayer.**

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

### **\*Lord's Prayer**

\*P: Lord, teach us to pray.

**\*C: 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.**

### **\*Benediction**

\*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**\*C: Amen.**

**\*Hymn LBW #557 "Let All Things Now Living"**

**\*Dismissal**

**\*P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “*Andante*” in G major

arr. Adolph Hesse

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**Assisting in Worship Today**

**Altar Guild** - Gloria M., Judy F.

**8:00 AM - Ushers** - John & Donna .

**Lector:** John F. - **Acolyte:** Payton K.

**10:15 AM - Ushers** - Paul C., Donna C.

**Lector:** Betty N. - **Acolyte:** Josh S.

**Contacts**

*Office Phone:* 610-837-1061

*Church Email:* [stjohnbath@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbath@gmail.com)

*Pastor Walsh:* 610-837-1061 / 484-282-0699 (emergency)

*Pastor's Email:* [pastorterrywalsh@outlook.com](mailto:pastorterrywalsh@outlook.com)

***Follow us on Facebook:***

St. John's church page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Johns-Lutheran-Church-120814211266763/>

Pastor Walsh's page, for information on faith in the wider world:

<https://www.facebook.com/terrence.walsh.96>

***Follow us on our website:*** [www.stjohnsbathpa.org](http://www.stjohnsbathpa.org)

**Welcome to St. John's!**

We are glad that you are here to worship with us! We are in the midst of the Easter Season, which celebrates the presence of the Risen Christ with the disciples.

During the Easter Season we will light the Pascal Candle, the large candle located at the foot of the pulpit, which symbolizes the presence of the Resurrected Jesus with today's Christians who worship at St. John's or any other church. Our Bible readings will come from the Book of Acts, the first letter of Peter, and the Gospel of St. John. We rejoice in proclaiming that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! →



You may be new to St. John's, new to the Bath area, new to Lutheran worship, or may have never before set foot in a church. Regardless how often you have sat in church we are glad to have you join us. We invite you to listen to the service, enjoy the music, and say prayers for yourself and all who are need. Have questions? Can't find the right page? Please see Pastor Terry or ask any of the ushers.

You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place.

Stay up to date with worship schedule changes, meeting notices, and weather cancellations by  
texting **STJOHNSBATH to 84576**  
or connect with us online at **stjohnsbath.flocknote.com**

### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380, Monday, April 29, 2024**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

**Philip and James, Apostles**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024** - Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

**Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria,**

**died 373, Thursday, May 2, 2024** - Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

**Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387,**  
**Saturday, May 4, 2024** - Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

**Nursery School Enrollment 2024-2025:** Do you know someone looking for a great place to enroll their child in nursery school? Look no further and share the word, we have an amazing program and teachers here at St. John's Bath. Enrollment forms are available through Dawn Mayer at 610-837-9868 or by e-mailing stjohnbath@gmail.com. Classes for 2, 3, and 4-year old's.

**Today's Announcements - Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**This Week at St. John's**

4/28/2024 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship (Library)	11:45 AM
4/29/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
5/02/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
5/05/2024 - Sun.	Worship/Communion	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship/Communion	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM

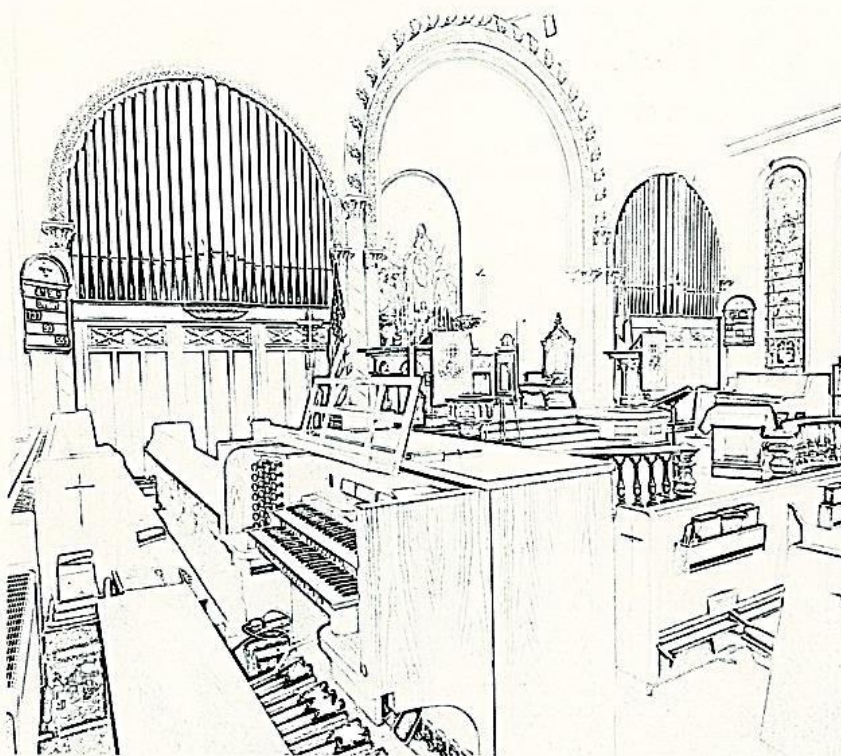
**Online Giving Option:** We share with you the new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation. You can give now at this website link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAB8>. Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission. Thank you again for all that you do.



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**Prayers Requested For:** Matthew A., Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis & Joe A., Amy B., Allen B., Marsha B., Josie B., the B. Family, Barb B., Cory B., Jason C., Alton E., Bev F., Barry F., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Eileen & Frank H., Shawn H., Troy H., Ned H., Robert H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., Dennis K., Gerry K., Lee L., Shirley L., Jorge L., Ruth M., The M. Family, Joe N., Danielle N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Brent R., Earl & Steve S., Ethel S., Louise S., Barb S., Beth S., the family of Jerry S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Ann U., Viola W., Rev. Jay W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Galen W., Susan W., Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., Barbra & Jim Z., Francis Z.

*If you would like to add or remove a person  
from the prayer list, contact the Church Office  
(610-837-1061).*



## Organ Recital and Rededication

*Organists: Lou Carol Fix, Patrice A. Kidd, John C. Brewster, Kevin R. Ehrig and Thomas D. Busteed*

St. John's Lutheran Church  
206 E. Main St  
Bath, PA 18014

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
3pm