

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street
Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

May 2, 2021

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

**“I am
the
true
vine ...”**



John 15:1

St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Fifth Sunday of Easter**. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month and on Festival Sundays. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

Prayer upon entering God's House:

Eternal God, help us to maintain our focus on Your glory, rather than on the glories of the world. We turn our hearts to You as the Holy Giver of all life. Deepen our devotion to You. Hear us, O Lord, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

arr. Biery

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 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**

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

***OPENING HYMN**

"Lift High the Cross"

LBW 377

***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.**

*KYRIE



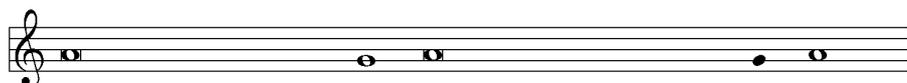
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.



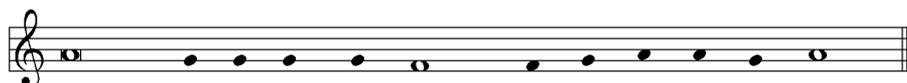
Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.



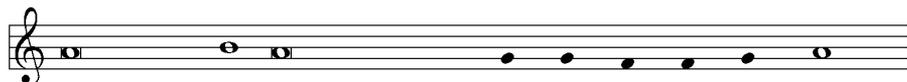
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty 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



Ⓐ Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

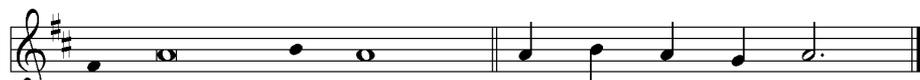


you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



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

P Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 8:26–40

A The First Lesson is from the eighth chapter of Acts.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM 22:24–30

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live forever!"**

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations bow before him.

**²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD;
He rules over the nations.**

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**²⁹My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's forever.**

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND LESSON:

1 JOHN 4:7–21

A The Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of First John.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone

says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹⁵“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LBW 551

SERMON

HOLY BAPTISM

***THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, thank you for cutting us from our tree of death and gifting us to Yourself, the Living Vine. Give us courage, Your pruning frights us at times! Give us faith as pruning bears much fruit in You! Give us love which is the sweetest fruit of Your blessed vine. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Other intercessions are offered.)

P Into Your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

C Amen

***OFFERTORY**



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



bles-sing. 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. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are You,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

* SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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

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



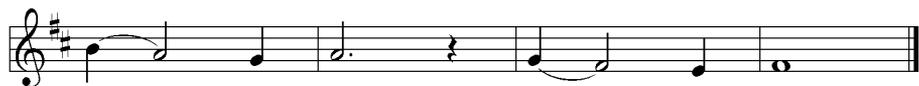
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 HYMNS

LBW 224, 210, 131, 252, WOV 740

*COMMUNION

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present
In the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.*

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers

*For those that require special dietary restrictions, we now have gluten-free, communion wafers.
Please inform the Pastor of your needs.*

P The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen

*CANTICLE



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray....We give You thanks almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in Your mercy You would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C 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. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



♩ A - men

RECESSIONAL HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" *WOV 770*

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Now the Green Blade Rises" *arr. Held*

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SUNDAY

Youth Group Leads Worship Service today!

The Youth Group will lead our worship today and as always will preach, read, usher and greet. Thank you for supporting our youth by attending this joyous service of praise!



**Sacrament of
Holy Baptism**

Today we welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Erik John Repak, son of Amy & Steve Repak and grandson of Pastor & Nancy Johnson.



The flower chart for 2021 has been posted in the narthex. Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event.

Flowers are \$50.00.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today

9:30 a.m. Junior Choir
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Senior Choir
11:00 a.m. Worship: Communion
6:30 p.m. Youth Group 6-12

Wednesday 5/5

9:30 a.m. Children's Hour (in person)
11:30 a.m. Children's Hour (on facebook)

Thursday 5/6

2:45 p.m. Catechism
7:00 p.m. Catechism
7:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer @ Kittanning Amphitheater

Sunday 5/9

8:30 a.m. Worship: Rock of our Salvation
9:30 a.m. Junior Choir
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Senior Choir
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:30 p.m. No Youth Group





Women's Banquet
Sunday, May 16, 2021
***after service - 12:30 PM**
A Lesson on Fruits of the Spirit

Inviting all the ladies - young and old to join us for a “beautiful bounteous luncheon” in appreciating each other and celebrating our spiritual gifts!

The men will be preparing a meal of a Grilled Chicken Salad with the fixings, Ham Salad Croissants, Fresh Fruit Salad and Eclairs for dessert. Lemonade, fruit punch, hot tea and coffee will be served. Return this flier to the church office or in the offering plate with an envelope marked **Ladies Banquet by Sunday, May 2nd** or mail to the church office.

Cost is \$8.00 Ages 12 and under free.

- Name: _____
- Phone: _____
- Number attending: _____ adults _____ children 12 & under
- Total enclosed \$ _____
- * Food allergy information: _____
- *** I would prefer take out/pick up after church _____

Pentecost Flowers

Pentecost Sunday is May 23, 2021

Geraniums may be purchased to place in the church for Pentecost. Please complete the form below to place in the offering plate or mail it to St. John's church at 218 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning. If your payment is a check, please make out to *St. John's Lutheran Church* with "Pentecost flowers" in the memo line. Flowers are \$5.00 each. **Deadline is May 14th.**

Geranium _____

(Please indicate number of flowers desired)

In memory of

Given by:

In honor of

Given by:



Looking for Volunteers to coordinate the stocking & maintaining of Katie's Cupboard

Open - no questions asked, **Katie's Cupboard** fills gaps in services provided by organizations with operating hours and/or requiring paperwork/documentation. **It also encourages community and love for neighbor!**

Join us in supporting Katie's Cupboard project in two ways. Purchase items when grocery shopping and place inside the cupboard. Volunteer to work on the "keep it stocked committee" to find ways to sustain this outreach through the congregation and community.

How can you help today? Please call Tammy Fleeger @ 724-664-1773 or the church office @ 724-548-2051. Thank you for your support!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lector
Acolyte
Greeters
Camera Operator

Youth
Youth
Youth
Youth
Bill Bouch

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith
Christine Lettrich
Michael Craft
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Erik John Repak and Pastor Johnson's 60th birthday from Ruth Ann & Daniel D. Crawford.

OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God, each other, our community, and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.

GRACE
happens



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA