



# ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN † CHURCH

501 Chestnut Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
Phone: 610-965-9885  
[www.stjohnsemmaus.org](http://www.stjohnsemmaus.org)

St. John's is a congregation of the Lehigh Mission District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## **Easter Sunday** **April 9, 2023**

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

MINISTERS ..... The Baptized People of St. John's  
PASTOR ..... The Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens  
MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR ..... Timothy M. Ginder  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR ..... Denise Mill  
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT ..... Mary Racek  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ..... Barbara E. Walck  
BOOKKEEPER ..... Anna Galante  
CUSTODIAN ..... Brian P. Dunton  
PASTOR EMERITUS ..... The Rev. Fred S. Foerster

**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We pray that as God speaks to us in worship we will be nurtured in Christian faith and equipped for our life of serving love and justice in the world.

**St. John's Prayer Chain** members pray for your concerns confidentially each day for a week. Request prayers by contacting the Church Office ([info@stjohnsemmaus.org](mailto:info@stjohnsemmaus.org) or 610-965-9885) or coordinator, Faith Drescher ([fdresch@ptd.net](mailto:fdresch@ptd.net) or 610- 966-5321).

**Let us pray . . .**

for our ELCA and our Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton;  
for our Northeastern PA Synod and our Bishop, The Rev. Christopher deForest;  
for our Lehigh Mission District and our Dean, Rev. Nelson Quinones

### **Stewardship of the Earth**

**The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.**

C=Congregation

A=Assisting Minister

P=Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## *PRELUDE*

### *EASTER ACCLAMATION*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P The risen Christ meets us at the tomb and turns our tears to joy.

C **Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad!**

P The risen Christ comes through our locked doors and turns our fears to courage.

C **Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad!**

P The risen Christ breaks bread with us and turns our despair to hope.

C **Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad!**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The assembly stands to sing.*

**GATHERING SONG**      **“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

**Hymn 365**

### *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.**

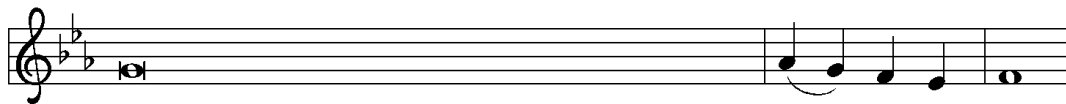
*KYRIE*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



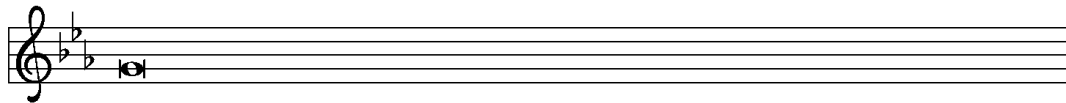
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



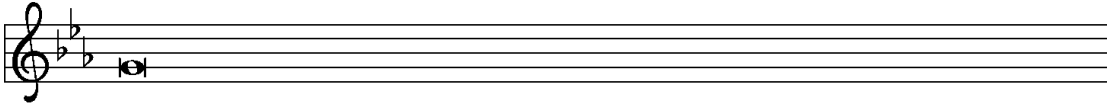
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

P O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
<sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
<sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*After the reading:*

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.



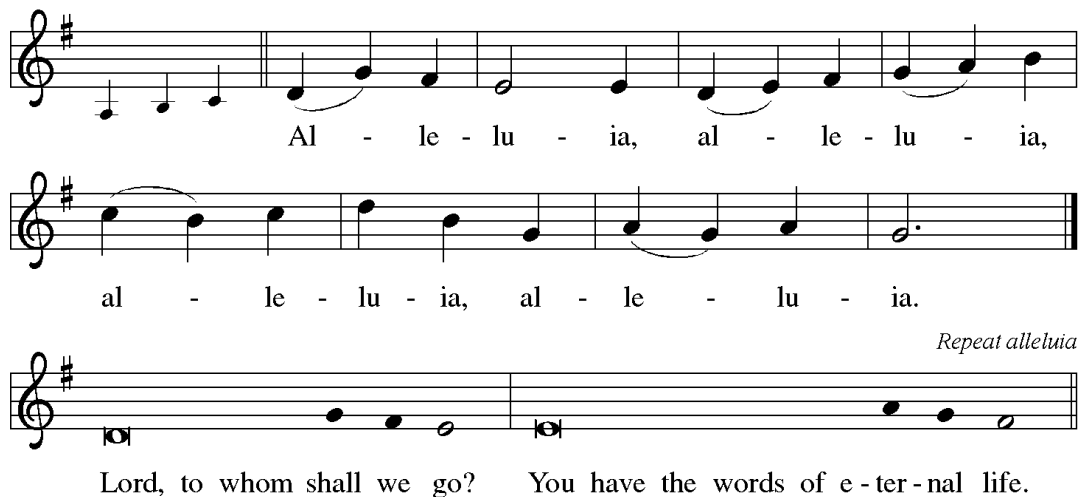
After the reading:

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on

it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*CHILDREN’S SERMON*

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

*SERMON*

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

*The assembly stands to sing.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**

**Hymn 367**

*The assembly stands to sing.*

*NICENE CREED*

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

P United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all in need.

You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians,  
preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy  
of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

*PEACE*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**ANTHEM**

**Adult Choir**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*The assembly stands.*

## 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.

- P 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, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

### *COMMUNION*

P The table of life is spread before you.  
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

C **Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery.*

*Those who for reasons of health do not drink wine, commune fully when receiving only the bread. In partaking of either element (bread or wine), the whole Christ is received. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome at the altar to receive a blessing.*

*To receive the Sacrament, please follow the direction of an usher to approach the altar via the center aisle. Take a cup from the tray near the baptismal font. Proceed up the steps and around the altar. After you have received the bread and wine, exit through the side rooms, place the communion cup on the tray and re-enter the nave.*

*Persons who are not able to come to the altar are invited to sit in the first pew on the pulpit side where the Pastor will commune you. Please notify an usher.*

*If you are doing online worship, we invite you to participate in communion in your own home as the Pastor shares communion with you.*

*The assembly stands.*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

#### *PRAYER*

A Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.

With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.

Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**



# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## *BLESSING*

**P** The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.



## **SENDING SONG**

**“Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”**

**Hymn 382**

## *DISMISSAL*

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## *POSTLUDE*

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