

Sunday, April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and*

*material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshiping.** Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion:** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday/Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday/Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, Friday Noon - 3 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Fern Funk, Parish Administrator (email [ststephenoffice@msn.com](mailto:ststephenoffice@msn.com))

Church Website [www.ststephenshicksville.com](http://www.ststephenshicksville.com)

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Table of Plenty* ~ Dan Schutte**

Refrain

Come to the feast of heav-en and earth! Come to the ta-  
- ble of plen - ty! God will pro-vide for all that we  
need, here at the ta - ble of plen - ty.

The musical notation for the Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line ends with a quarter rest. The second line ends with a quarter note. The third line ends with a double bar line and a fermata. A '2' is written above the final measure of the third line, indicating a second ending.

Verses

1. O come and sit at my ta - ble where saints and  
2. O come and eat with-out mon-ey; & come to  
3. My bread will ev - er sus - tain you through days of  
4. Your fields will flow - er in full-ness; your homes will

The musical notation for the Verses is written on a single staff in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. It consists of one line of music with a double bar line at the end.



1. sin - ners are friends. I wait to wel - come the lost and  
 2. drink with - out price. My feast of glad - ness will feed your  
 3. sor - row and woe. My wine will flow like a sea of  
 4. flour - ish in peace. For I, the giv - er of home and



1. lone - ly to share the cup of my love.  
 2. spir - it with faith and full - ness of life.  
 3. glad - ness to flood the depths of your soul.  
 4. har - vest, will send my rain on the soil.

### 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.**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE



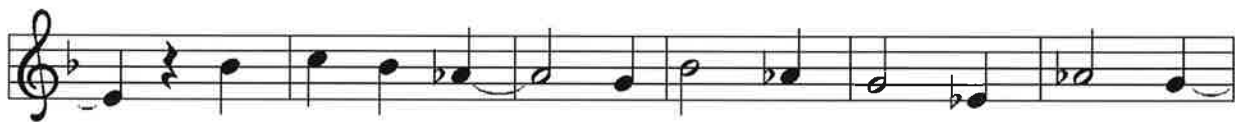
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



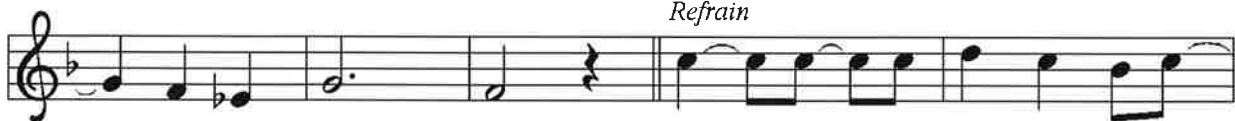
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 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. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**

A reading from Acts.

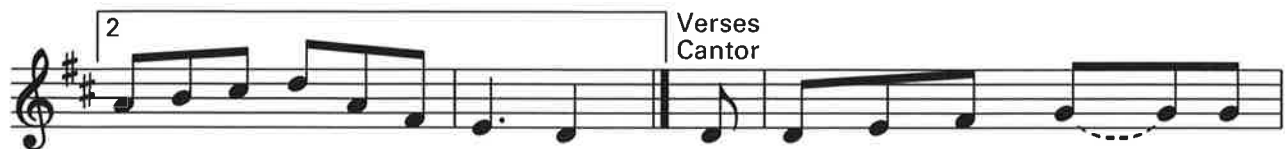
<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: *This Day Was Made by the Lord* ~ Christopher Walker**

Refrain

1

This day was made by the Lord, let us re-joice, let us be glad.



let us re-joice in sal - va - tion! 1. I thank you, your love is e -  
 2. Your hand raised me up \_\_\_\_ in  
 3. The stone which the build - ers re -  
 4. You o - pened the gates \_\_\_\_ of  
 5. ¶ You are my strength and my



1. ter - nal, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.  
 2. tri - umph, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.  
 3. ject - ed is the cor - ner - stone, \_ is the cor - ner - stone. \_  
 4. heav - en, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.  
 5. Sav - ior, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.



1-5. I will pro - claim the won - ders you do!

**SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**

A reading from 1 John.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and

he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

### GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P The holy gospel according to John. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach

out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.  
 ...The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

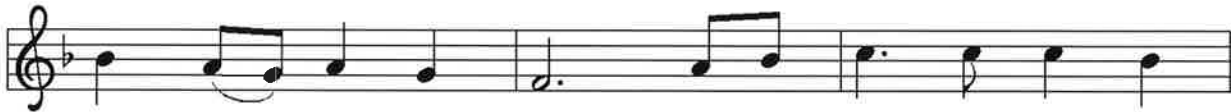
**HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)**



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -





Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

**NICENE CREED**

A With the whole Church, we 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**

A 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.

*The response to the Prayers of Intercession is: C Hear our prayer.*

A 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.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** *Maureen O'Brien (4/9); Paul Portz (4/12)*

## BIRTHDAY SONG

*He who began a good work in you 2x*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!*

## + MEAL +

**OFFERING:** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 181)



## OFFERING PRAYER

P 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. **C Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

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

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P ...all our sins and sorrows will be no more. C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P ...that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

### LORD'S PRAYER

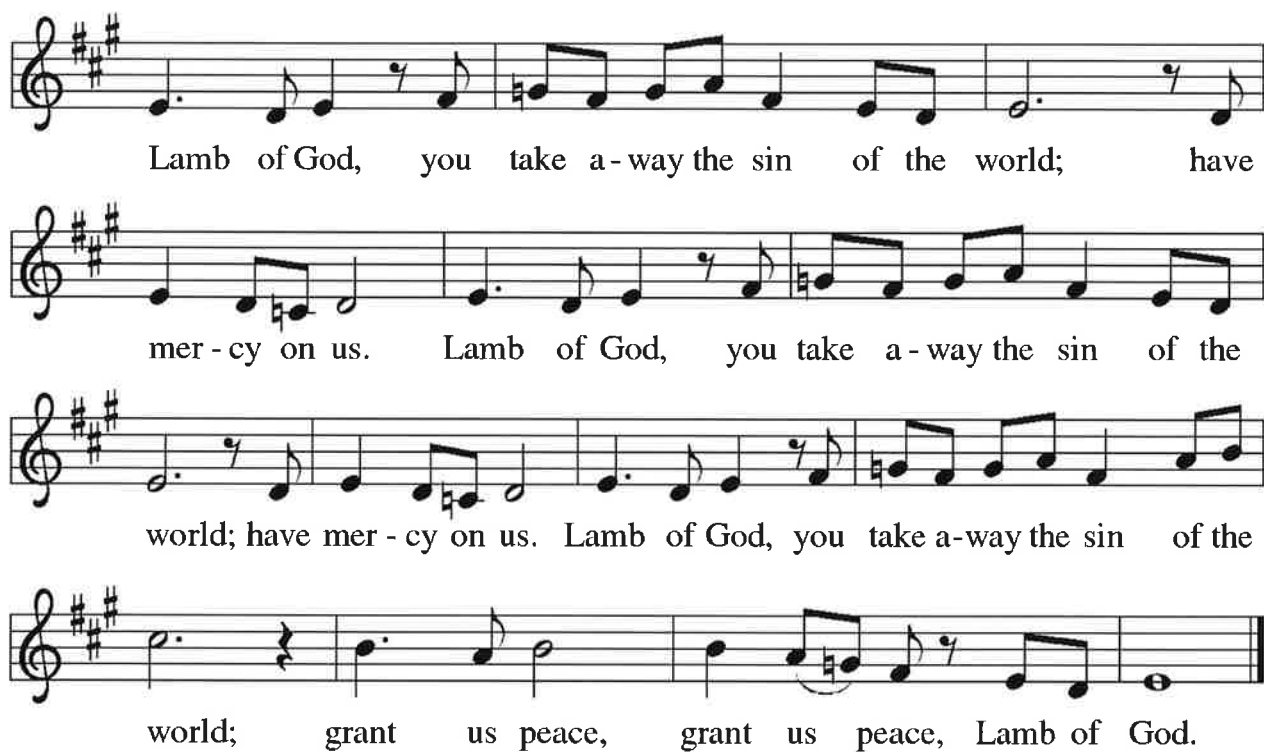
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

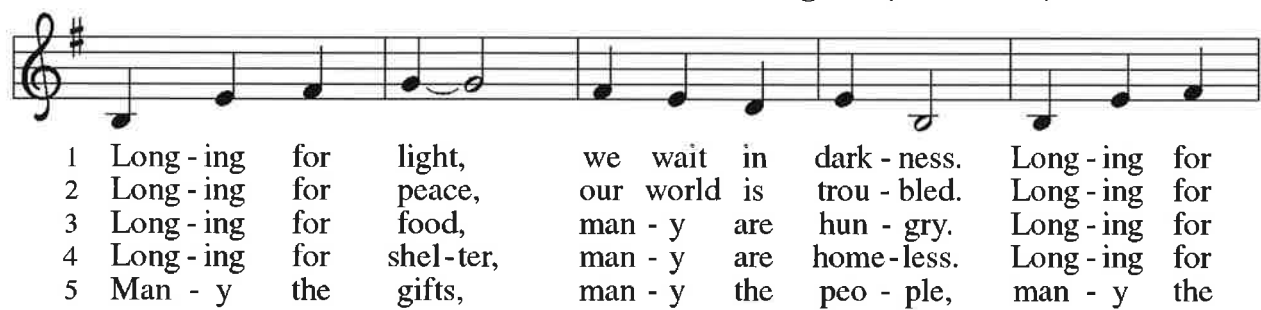
P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

### LAMB OF GOD



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, Lamb of God.

### SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Christ Be Our Light* (ELW 715)



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **C Amen.**

### + SENDING +

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

### BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C Amen.**

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: *We Are Called* (ELW 720)**



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia! **C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

I think there is no suffering greater than what is caused by the doubts of those who want to believe. I know what torment this is, but I can only see it, in myself anyway, as the process by which faith is deepened. A faith that just accepts is a child's faith and all right for children, but eventually you have to grow religiously as every other way, though some never do. What people don't realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross. It is much harder to believe than not to believe. When we get our spiritual house in order, we'll be dead. This goes on. You arrive at enough certainty to be able to make your way, but it is making it in darkness. Don't expect faith to clear things up for you. It is trust, not certainty.—*Flannery O'Connor*

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

### **Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

## Announcements for the week of April 7, 2024

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### *Celebrations in April*



April 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Maureen O'Brien  
April 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Paul Portz

April 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Pr. Joann & Greg Hunter  
April 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Christel & Donald LaVorgna

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**Reminder ~ Bowling at Levittown Lanes** Saturday, April 13 from 3 pm - 5 pm.  
Please refer to the sign-up flyer in the Narthex. \$25 per person including shoe rental.

**WELCA Conference Bible Study** ~ Wednesday, April 17 with Pr. Micah Stumme.  
Location: Cedar Creek Park with backup site: St. David's, Massapequa Park.

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

### **PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (April 7<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>)**

<b>Today</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion
Tuesday	7:00 pm <i>Back to Basics (AA)</i>
Saturday	3:00 pm Bowling at Levittown Lanes
<b>Next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday of Easter</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion

### **SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY**

#### Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Barbara Engert
LECTOR:	Brianna Feeney
ACOLYTE:	Sara LaGuarina
ACCOMPANIEST:	Gregory Hunter
USHERS:	Mark Hammaren, Rich Humann
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Jane Ebersberger, Christel LaVorgna



## **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

### **PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Lauren Artus  
Dolly Braun  
Dottie Eberhardt  
Roger Engert  
Dottie McPartlin  
Lois Menik

### **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES**

Joe (brother-in-law of Mark Hammaren)  
Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)  
Fred & Janet Barrell (brother-in-law & sister of Susan Portz)  
Wendy & Joe Bezko Colligan (sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko)  
Roseann DeGennaro (cousin of Laureen Aiello)  
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)  
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)  
Elaine Lehe (sister of Maureen O'Brien)  
John Parrett (husband of Claire Parrett)  
Krista Parrett (daughter-in-law of Claire Parrett)  
David Smiloff (brother of Debbie De Louise)  
Diana Smiloff (sister-in-law of Debbie De Louise)  
Arlene Stafford (aunt of Kathy Hesse)

### **PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS**

Dan Buckholt (friend of Allison Barone)  
Robert Ciaccio (friend of The Barone Family)  
Ed & Marie Gomula & The Gomula Family (friends of Debbie De Louise)  
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)  
Carol Lorenzut (friend of Bill & Lauren Artus)  
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)  
Bill Stanton (friend of Kelli Barone)  
Stephanie Thorton (friend of Hesse Family)  
*The family and friends who mourn the loss of Rudy Eberhardt*