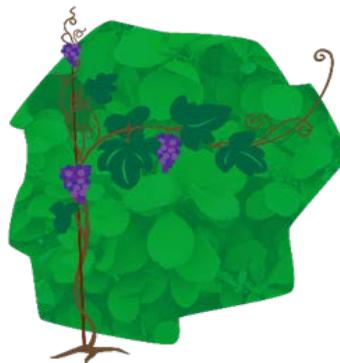


Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Fifth Sunday
Of
EASTER

10:00 a.m.

April 29, 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive

Westfield, MA 01085

Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> E-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Music Ministry Site: stjohnsmusic.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35



The Order of Holy Communion – Order of Matins

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

In one of His several "I am" statements, Jesus says, "I am the vine. You are the branches." Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, "Abide in Me." In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God's love. And God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

✠ PRELUDE

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **463**: *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"*

Service of the Word

p. 219

Psalmody

Venite

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

(Philip is sent to meet the Ethiopian eunuch to tell him the Good News about Jesus.)

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 1 John 4:1–11 (*Test the spirits. God is love.*)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Stand and sing the Easter Responory (Page 222)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1–8 (*Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Abide in Him and abide in love.*)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **465**: *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"*

† SERMON: *"Test Before You Trust"* 1 John 4:1-11

(Please Stand)

CANTICLE (p. 223)

Te Deum

(Be Seated)

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

Choir Anthem:

(Please Stand)

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are greater than all and have been given the name that is above every name. Grant us discernment to test all spirits. Tune our hearts to listen to Your voice, and draw us away from the voices that clamor to deceive us according to the spirits of this age. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious King, Your kingdom is greater than all, and Your rule is limitless and unbounded. Grant that the rulers of the kingdoms of this world would bow their knees to Your gracious reign, seeking only the knowledge of Your will and the power to carry it out. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Great Physician, Your healing power is greater than all the technology of human invention. Be at work for good through the vocations of all healthcare professionals, workers, and caregivers that those who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or spirit, would know the nearness of Your presence and experience the joy that comes from abiding in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hope of all the saints, You have purposed and prepared a future greater than we can imagine in Your creation of a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Bring us together with all Your saints to experience Your love together gathered around the throne of the Lamb, who loves all people and gave Himself for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ CONFESSIO and ABSOLUTION

P: God who is gracious and merciful:

C: We confess that we are sinful by nature and have turned away from abiding in Your love. We have been enticed by our own desires and lured away from Your love by the spirits of this age. Yet, greater is Jesus who dwells in us by faith than the spirit of the Antichrist who is in the world. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins and bring us again to abide in Your love.

P: God hears you and God loves you. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Be Seated)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Assistant comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. 474: *"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"*

✠ **POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

C: Amen.

✠ **CLOSING HYMN NO. 461:** *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*

✠ **SILENT PRAYER**

✠ **POSTLUDE**

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY: Lay Reader – Patti Brose
Lay Assistants – Paul Brose & William Schneeloch Acolyte – Dan Provost
Director of Music – Jeff Windoloski
Altar Care – Erika Slozak

THIS WEEK at St. John's

Tuesday, May 1: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2: 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 3: 6:30 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Friday, May 4: 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 5

Elders' meeting

Confirmation Class

Mid-Week Communion Worship

Hand Chime Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

HIGHER THINGS RETREAT

EASTER VESPERS IN THE LUTHERAN TRADITION OF J.S. BACH

TODAY, April 29 at 3:00 p.m.

Presented by The 'Soli Deo Gloria' Concert Series at St. John's

Join us for the second concert in this season of the 'Soli Deo Gloria' Concert Series with the celebration of Easter! Easter is one of the major annual festivals in the Lutheran calendar; it is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In honor of this, we will present evening Vespers as Bach would have known in 18th century Leipzig Germany. Reverend Dwight Riley of St. John's will preach on the historic lesson for Easter from the Gospel of John recounting the disciples and Mary's witness to the empty tomb. The music for the Vespers Concert will reflect this noble theme: The centerpiece of the Vespers will be "Weib, was weinest du?" (Woman, Why Weepest Thou?) by Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) telling of Jesus dialogue with Mary as she discovers Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. The vespers will also feature organ prelude and postlude and choral pieces performed by the concert series chamber choir, the Kantorei, with selections from J.S. Bach and his predecessors. The concert's theme will be echoed throughout the evening's congregational chorales for all to sing accompanied by St. John's pipe organ with improvisations in the German Baroque tradition. Following the concert be sure to join us in the fellowship hall for a dessert reception. We hope you will join us to celebrate this historic day in the musical tradition of the Lutheran church!

ALTAR CARE: A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for those who are willing to volunteer to clean our church altar. If you are unable to do a full month, two weeks would be fine. All are encouraged to help with the task. Training will be provided if needed.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet located in the foyer to host a coffee hour after church. This activity is a wonderful way to share in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please see Erika Slozak if you have any questions.

Stephen Ministers Care

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others.

We need Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving in this way? For more information, please contact Paul or Patti Brose at 562-6599, Dan Provost at 977-1525 or Pastor Riley today.