

PROTECT THEM
IN YOUR
NAME

JOHN 17:11

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 21, 2023

A HEARTY welcome to all! If you are visiting this morning, please take a moment to sign the guest register at the entrance. We invite you to worship with us, learn about our life in Christ, and consider this congregation for your church home. Feel welcome to speak with Pastor Bob Schmitt if you are interested in membership.



CHILDREN'S BULLETINS, Bible storybooks, crayons, and coloring books are available in the back of the church for young children to use during the service. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help their children select age-appropriate books and materials. At St. John, all children are valued and nurtured, and we are committed to helping them learn to worship. They may not always understand what is going on or being said, but they can understand this is a place where they are loved, accepted, and needed.



PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S LITURGY:

MINISTERS: The People of St. John

PRESIDING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt

ASSISTING MINISTER: Deacon Michael McFarland

LECTOR: Kathy Harris

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE: Eddy Mei

USHERS: Ray Yost, Hal Baesch, Dennis Schell, and Stan Sieradzki

ORGANIST: Drew Taliaferro

ALTAR GUILD: Jodi and David Horst, Jr.



THE BREAD, wine, candles are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Mollie Harnen, mom and grandmom, on the anniversary of her death, April 30, 2020, by Fran and Stan Sieradzki and Mollie Blum.



EVERYONE IS cordially invited to enjoy coffee hour in the downstairs social hall.



COPIES OF the **weekly newsletter** are available at the back of the church.

✂ Clip and save. Share it with your family.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

PASTOR BOB SCHMITT

can be reached at **410.746.0236**

or k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE WELCOME PLACE ... THE CHURCH THAT CARES
WORSHIPING AND SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1916

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THE REV. DR. K. ROBERT SCHMITT, *Pastor*

Doris Anderson, *Ministry Assistant*

Drew Taliaferro, *Director of Music*

Michael McFarland, *Deacon*

The Rev. Joseph P. Lettrich, *Pastor Emeritus*

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 21, 2023

9:00 a.m.

P = Presiding Minister **C** = Congregation

A = Assisting Minister **L** = Lector

**Please note: If standing or kneeling is difficult for you,
please feel comfortable remaining seated during the service.**

**Ushers are available to provide directions
or offer other assistance; they are wearing pocket badges.**

*Bless us, O God,
with a reverent sense of your presence,
that we may be at peace and may worship you
with all our mind and spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

IN THESE DAYS BETWEEN ASCENSION AND PENTECOST, *we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

GATHERING

8:50

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

▲ Let us now listen to our church bells and prelude to help us enter the spirit of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. “Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, ‘The LORD is king!’”
(Psalm 96:9-10)

RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

L. Smith

Time of silence for prayer and meditation.

*Please stand, as you are able, and face the pastor
in the back of the church.*

9:00

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

This confession is based on the A cycle of readings for Easter from 1 Peter. It moves us from the penitential season of Lent to the celebratory season of Easter with a declarative preparation, reflective confession, and an evangelical mission in the absolution. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P We gather in the name of God: The Father, the **+** Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have promised us an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfailing and kept in heaven for us. (1 Peter 1.3-4)

Let us repent of our sin so that God's power may guard us through faith for a salvation to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1.5)

Silence is kept for reflection

P O God,

C we confess before you and one another that we have failed to rejoice in your name; we have suffered trials and shown our faith to be less than genuine. We have sought after perishable gold instead of our Lord Jesus. Guide us to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1.6-7)

Amen

P Jesus Christ bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds **+** you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Guardian and Shepherd of your souls. (1 Peter 2.24-25)

You are God's chosen people; go declare the wonderful deeds of the one who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2.9)

C Amen

GATHERING SONG 634 ELW (red book)

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”

Stanzas 1, 3, and 6

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

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

L A reading from Acts.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Spoken responsively.

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish
at the presence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who
rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into
freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the
presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of
God, the God of Israel.**

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for
the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be
God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-112

L A reading from 1 Peter.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

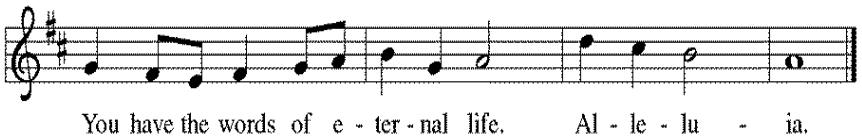
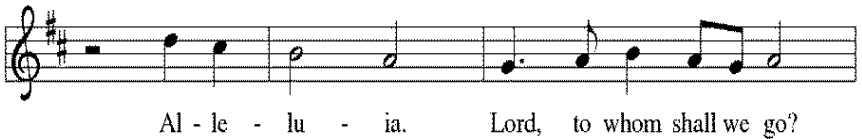
¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

P The holy gospel, according to John.

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

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME AND SERMON

Pastor K. Robert Schmitt

Silence for reflection.

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY 825 ELW (red book)

“You Servants of God”

Stanzas 1, 2

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

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

A brief silence.

A God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Especially, inspire and guide our bishops, Elizabeth and William, our pastor Robert, our deacon Michael, and our pastor emeritus Joseph. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Help us to care for our neighborhood, Maryland farmlands, Eastern Shore, Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore harbor, and Masonville Cove. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our heart. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council members, Sunday school teachers, and worship assistants. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering plate can be found in the back of the church.

ANTHEM

“Sing the Lord A Song”

Price/Besig

Please stand, as you are able.

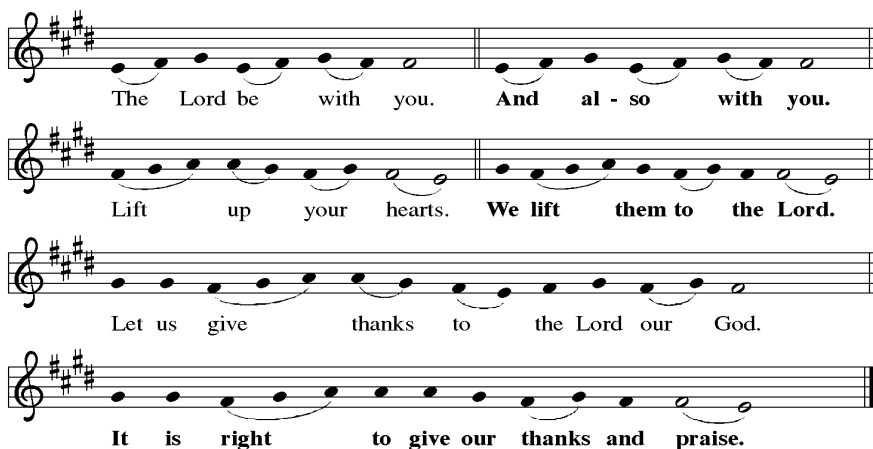
OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together.

C Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOG



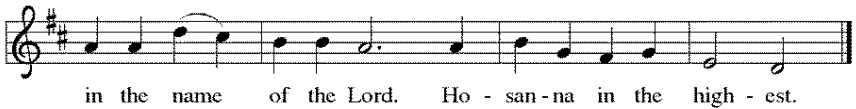
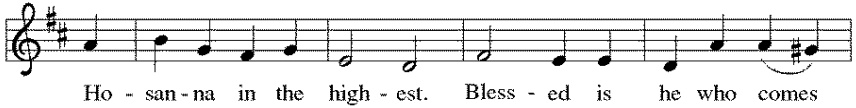
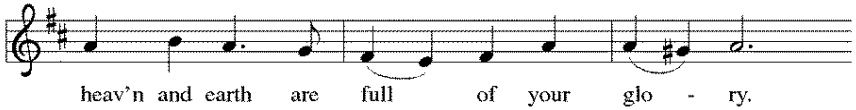
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

☐ 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 Creator, almighty and ever living 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:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and most merciful God.

You give life and bring new life
in your risen Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

We praise you as the God of promise,
delivering your chosen people Israel
from their captivity in slavery
and giving them new life
in the land promised to faithful Abraham;
and though they experienced the death of exile,
you remained faithful to your promise,
sending the prophets and giving your children
renewed life in their own land.

We praise you for Jesus, born of Mary
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
the first-born from the dead;
who, through the exile of his suffering on the cross,
served us as victim and priest,
and through him you have delivered us
from our exile and captivity to sin and death,
giving us the joys of life everlasting,
fulfilling all covenants and promises.

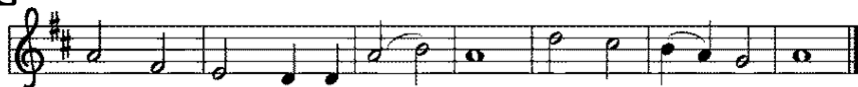
P Send your Spirit to breathe new life into us
and to bless these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us
the body and blood of our living host,
Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

Therefore, Father, before you we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P We offer to you, most holy God,
our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
remembering this Easter all you have done
through the passion and resurrection of your Son.

In this holy communion you unite us
in the sacrifice of our eternal High Priest.

Through the promise he made to his disciples,
we await his final coming to fulfill all of life
and to make new the heavens and the earth.

C



A - men, a - men, a - men.

P As we now gather
to receive this holy sacrament of Christ's body † and blood †
strengthen us in your mercy
and grant us the fullness of your salvation and peace.



Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty
of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is
yours, al - migh - ty Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P The Lord swallows up death forever and makes a feast of rich food and wine. Eat, drink, the gift is for you. (Isaiah 25:7-8)

C Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! (Rev. 19:17)

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All the faithful are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

Please come forward by the center aisle and return by a side aisle. If walking to communion is a problem, please stand in place; the bread and wine will be brought to you. Please sign a communion card and hand it to an usher. Ushers are wearing pocket badges. Adults and children who are not communing today are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. Individual pre-poured cups of dealcoholized wine are available in the trays for those who do not wish to drink alcohol.

COMMUNION SONG



SENDING

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.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN 579 ELW (red book)

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”
Stanzas 1, 2, and 5

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve in love

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



HOSPITALIZED/PRAYER LIST AS OF MAY 17:

Please surround those named below, and all who hold them dear, with your prayers for God’s healing and wholeness. **You are kindly asked to phone or email the church office to request prayers, report any errors or omissions, and provide updates.**

St. John, Brooklyn:

Doris Burkman is now at Morningside House of Friendship, 7548 Old Telegraph Road Room 202, Hanover, MD 21076; phone 410.766.9189. **Steven Isaac** is at home, awaiting return to the kidney/liver transplant list.

Update: **Rose Macknovitz** has moved again; her new address is 634 Jamestown Road, Westminster, MD 21158. Her son, **Mark Macknovitz**, is at Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis MD 21403.

Patricia Isaac has moved to Complete Care at Severna Park, 310 Genesis Way Room F12A, Severna Park, MD 21146-1762.

Please pray for **Ty and Sandy Isaac, Doris Anderson, Stephanie Haigis, Emily Eiermann, Remie Danielson, Ray Yost, Catherine Bacot, Patricia Kirby, Jim Horst, Laurie Anderson, Sidney Ford, Lillie Rhoades, Angie and Don Smith, Marie Pledger, Pat Dearing, George (Al) Mangerino, Shirley Quaskey, Ginny Yost, Susan Brown, Carol**

Fehrmann, Jerald Lulie, and Holly Kinstler. Continue praying for **F. Marie Jacobs, Geraldine (Jerri) Mooney, Dorothy Trott, Catherine Brecht, Henry Fischer, Bev Schweitzer, and Nancy Squires. Michele Walter Huggins** has long COVID and had surgery on April 20.

Please pray for **Sue Sheppard**, daughter of Claudia Hickman, who is recovering from surgery on May 15, and for **Mary Peters**, Claudia's friend and neighbor. Please also pray for former members, **Janet Burkman**, who has moved to a rehab center in Florida, and **Bill (Skip Burkman)**. Dennis Schell requests prayers for **Paul Fitzgerald**, his college friend, and for **Tanya Bragunier**, his niece. Please pray for **Dolores Biemiller**, mother of Lisa Hart, and for **Randy and Lisa**, her caregivers. Brittany Danielson asks you to pray for **Jack Norris**.

Update: Remie Danielson writes: "It's with great joy to share the news that **River Hanna**, 7-year-old nephew of Laura Block, had this week's PET scan, and the results showed his liver cancer is now in remission. After the removal of the tumor and going through seven chemo treatments at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, River, by the grace of God and the prayers sent on his behalf, can now be a real kid, once again. I wanted to share with you that miracles happen. The power of prayer makes the circle of life what it can be."

Kathy Harris requests your prayers for **Wayne Watson**, undergoing another round of cancer treatment. Ruth Lambert asks for prayers for her son, **Anthony Nelson**. Prayers are requested for **Tony Morris**, husband of Connie and father of Hunter and Camryn. Please pray for **Andrea**, neighbor of Floyd Musk.

Angie Smith asks for prayers for her good friend from school, **Jeanie Bowen**. Grace Planalp requests prayers for **Sandy Kohlway**. Adeline Lang asks for prayers for her nephew, **David Lang**. Please pray for **Katie McNey**, the twin sister of Holly Kinstler's daughter-in-law. Holly also requests prayers for her cousin, **Kim Meyer**.

Catherine Bacot requests prayers for **Marshall Bacot, Charles Mercer, Sr., Charles Mercer, Jr., Catherine Mercer, John Mercer, Ellen Hohman, Bill Hohman, and Keith and Diane Crizer**. Holly Hatfield asks for prayers for **Kathy and Nick Spurlock**, her aunt and uncle. Please pray for Shirley Quaskey's granddaughter, **Kara**, who is serving on a three-year mission trip to the Middle East.

Marie Pledger asks for prayers for her friend, **David John Leimbach**. Remember in prayer **Thomas (Tommy) Kelch**, husband of Karen Rainey Kelch. Lillie Rhoades asks for special prayers for **Diane Hogan**; Diane is the sister of Lisa Smith, Lillie's daughter-in-law.

Kathy Riley requests prayers for **Carol Szlechtka** recovering from COVID-19 at home, and for **Wanda Conway**. Please pray for Carol Fehrmann's sister, **Deborah Farrow Beall**, and for Carol's nephew, **Zachary Curry**. Remember in prayer **Penny Ericson**, dear friend of Fran Sieradzki. Please pray for Monette Obzut's cousins, **Suzanne Carroll** and **Carol and Mickey (John) Iafrate**.

Sue Calvert asks you to pray for **Harry McCrory**, husband of Jan McCrory, and for Jan's friend, **Maria Tydings**. Please pray for Laura Taliaferro's good friend, **Jourdan Davis**. Kindly remember in prayer Denise McCumbers' sister, **Darlene**, receiving cancer treatment. Susan Brown asks that you pray for her niece, **Beth B. Bowie**.

St. Paul's, Curtis Bay:

Prayers are requested for **Terri Otes, Louise Amrhein, Jeanette Johnson, David Deibel, Tony Amrhein, Annie Lutz, June Coughlin, Amy Stroh Purdy, Mary Strachan, George and Wendy Kester, and George Lang**.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/ASCENSION, May 21

8:50 a.m. – Announcements and Prelude

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour, Fundraising Task Force Meeting

This is the last Sunday for coffee hour until September.

MONDAY, May 22

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY, May 23

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, May 24

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

4:00 p.m. – Choir

THURSDAY, May 25

10:00 a.m. – Clothing Closet and Community Meal

SATURDAY, May 27

9:00 a.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

DAY OF PENTECOST, SUNDAY, May 28

8:50 a.m. – Announcements and Prelude

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

MOTHER’S DAY FLOWERS:

Our sincere apologies to the following members for omitting their sponsorship of Mother’s Day flowers on May 14.

Bill and Kim Council gave flowers to the glory of God, and in honor of **Jacqueline Storms** and in loving memory of **Carol Council**.

Claudia Hickman gave flowers to the glory pf God, and in honor of her **daughter Sue** and **all mothers**.



RECENT FIGURES

ATTENDANCE: May 14 – 37

OFFERING/REVENUE:

CATEGORY	APRIL 30	MAY 7	MAY 14
General offering	665.00	2,495.00	\$1,980.00
Mortgage/building fund	155.00	25.00	580.00
Mortgage principal	155.00	180.00	50.00
Pentecost	5.00		70.00
Bread, wine, and candles	25.00		
Honor gifts			100.00
Abiding memorials	75.00		
God’s Global Barnyard			50.00
AA group contributions			50.00
Rent – Head Start	2,718.42		
Flowers-Mother’s Day	266.00	25.00	
TOTAL	\$4,064.42	\$2,725.00	\$2,895.00

**St. John Lutheran Church,
Brooklyn, Baltimore, Maryland**



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS



**HELENA, MOTHER OF CONSTANTINE,
DIED AROUND 330**

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS (RIGHT), DIED 1543;

**LEONHARD EULER, DIED 1783;
SCIENTISTS**

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.



**JOHN CALVIN, RENEWER OF THE
CHURCH, DIED 1564**

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOD DOESN'T DO MAGIC

IT HAPPENS IN THE MOVIES all the time: just as we are made to believe that all hope is lost and evil will triumph, suddenly the hero discovers a mystical phrase that will give him supernatural strength to defeat the enemy. Or the heroine finds a charmed sword that gives her the power to do the same. Believing in movie magic can be a welcome respite from the grind of everyday life. Knowing an enchanted word that keeps us impervious to harm sounds incredible—who wouldn't want that? Those moments may work in the movies, but they don't happen in real life.



Don't confuse Jesus' words in today's gospel with a magic spell or incantation. As Jesus prays for his disciples, he knows the suffering they will soon endure because they have come to believe in him. There is no way to avert what they will undergo; each one of his disciples is headed toward a certain and painful death, just as Jesus is. Jesus knows these things cannot be prevented, but that isn't the point of his prayer.

Being in the world means bad things will happen to us. Crosses aren't special charms that keep evil away, and wearing one won't keep you from harm. Tragedies take place, people get sick, bullies victimize, the innocent get blamed. There are no magic words to prevent hardships or disasters. When Jesus prays for the Father to protect those who belong to him, he isn't asking God to keep those bad things from happening. The name of God was never intended to create force fields around us keeping bad things out. God and the one who comes in God's name make us one together with them. In this unity, life always triumphs in the end.