SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER STJOHN'S



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:30 am

Introduction

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

PRELUDE

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

Marilyn Biery

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

St. John's Handbell Choir Johann Horn

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation may stand and face the cross. As the cross is brought forward, the congregation may turn to continue facing this symbol of death and resurrection.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW 364



- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for these gifts of water:

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Child. By your Spirit's breath, revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING Acts 5:27-32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁷ The apostles were taken before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest began to interrogate them: ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach about that name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching—and you're determined to make us responsible for this Jesus' blood." ²⁹ To this, Peter and the apostles replied, "Better for us to obey God than people! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors has raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ This One, who has been exalted to God's right hand as Ruler and Savior, is to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are eyewitnesses to this. And so is the Holy Spirit, who has been given to those who obey God."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2354-2355). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

PSALM Psalm 150

The congregation sings the antiphon and the verses in bold.

Antiphon:



Psalm Tone:



¹Hallelujah! Praise God in the | holy temple; praise God in the | mighty firmament.

²Praise God for | mighty acts; praise God for ex-| ceeding greatness. Antiphon

³Praise God with | trumpet sound; praise God with | lyre and harp.

⁴Praise God with tambou-| rine and dance; praise God with | strings and pipe.

⁵Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals; praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.

⁶Let everything | that has breath praise the LORD. | Hallelujah! Antiphon

The congregation may stand and turn to continue facing the cross as it is brought among the people.





Our hearts burn with - in us

as you open to us the scriptures.

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

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

where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, ²¹ who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." ²² After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." ²⁴ It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." ²⁶ On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" ²⁸ Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus then said, "You've become a believer

because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. ³¹ But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2342-2343). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See page 5.

SERMON

Pastor Erik Christensen

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 390 The Risen Christ



Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Uphold your children who cry out to you. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers*.)

Merciful God, or Lord, we praise you, receive our prayer. Thanks be to God.

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERING

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

Music by Carl Schalk, Text by Susan Palo Cherwien

"Day of Arising"

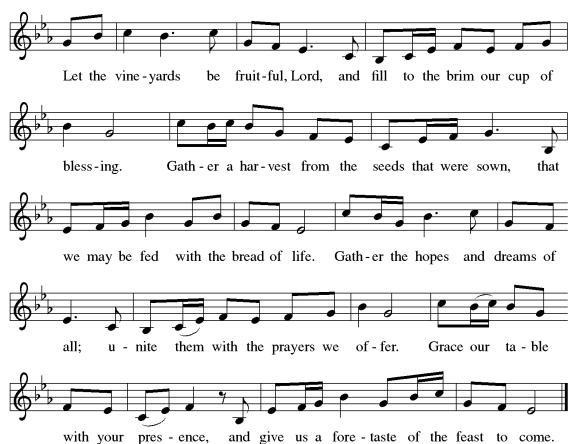
Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own. When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart, yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes. Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.

OFFERTORY VERSE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of goodness and growth,

all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.

Word and water, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

Receive the gifts we bring,

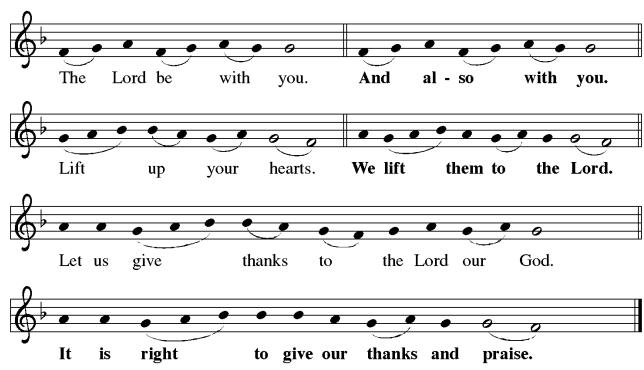
and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love

in our communities and in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

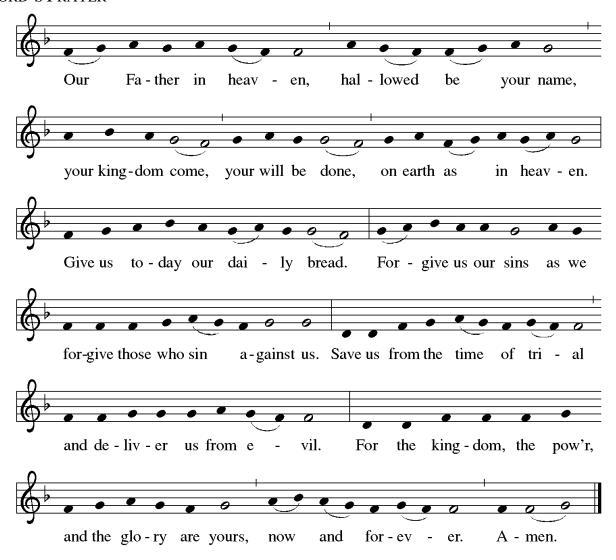
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

LORD'S PRAYER

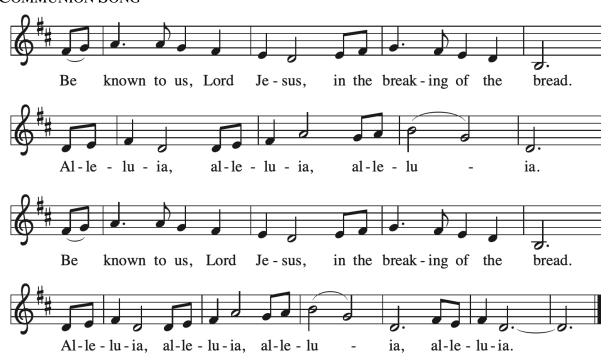


INVITATION

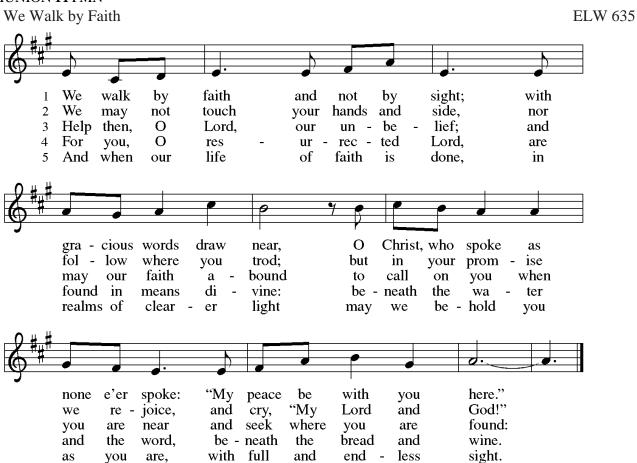
COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a glutenfree wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION HYMN



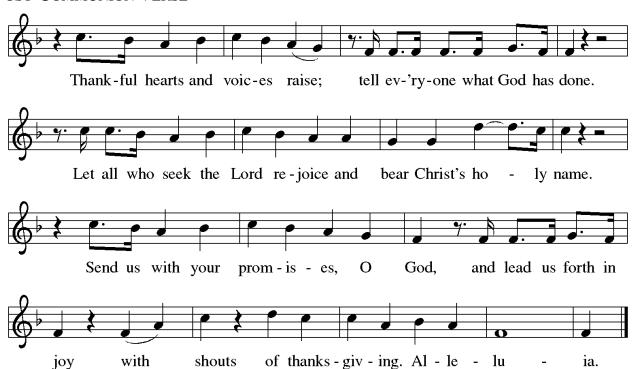
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal, may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION VERSE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

+ Sending +

FAREWELL BLESSING

Christine Kraemer, since October of 2021, you have served our community as Interim Music Director and Organist. During this time, you have guided us faithfully, leading us in musical praise to God. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been a beloved part of our life together in the church of Christ, in our service to one another, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

People of God, members of St. John's community, do you release Christine from service as your Interim Music Director and Organist?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Christine, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with St. John's? *Christine*: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Let us pray.

All-loving God, through your Child, Jesus Christ, you equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the music ministry of Christine Kraemer among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:

keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:

prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;

heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

All are invited to extend a hand in blessing.

Christine,

May God bless you and keep you.

May you live with courage and gladness in the future God gives you.

Just as you have been a blessing to us,

may you go forth to be a blessing to others;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Christine is presented with a gift from the community.

The congregation may applaud.

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in + Christ Jesus.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried out.

ELW 385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



Lord,

and

ris - en





Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

we

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell everyone what God has done.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Flourishes on "The Strife Is O'er"

Marilyn Biery

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR CHRISTINE KRAEMER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Pastor Erik Christensen

We are happy to welcome Pastor Erik Christensen (he/him/his), our guest preacher and presider for today and next Sunday while Pastor Allison is away. Pastor Erik is the Pastor to the Community and Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). He formerly served as Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, where he supervised Pastor Allison during her part-time internship. We are so grateful to have him visiting St. John's.

Farewell Reception for Christine Kraemer

We are incredibly thankful to Christine Kraemer for serving as our Interim Music Director and Organist for the past six months. Today is her last Sunday at St. John's, and we will celebrate with a Farewell Blessing during the service and a reception in her honor after the service. We wish Christine many blessings in her new role at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston.

First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion Classes

Student Pastor Derek is leading a three-week First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion class with children and youth beginning today. The class meets during Children's Church time this morning, May 1st, and May 8th, in person only. We will celebrate and receive first communion on **May 15th** during the 9:30 am service. All children are welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of whether they've received communion previously. If you'd like to volunteer to assist or have questions, please email derek@stjohnswilmette.com.

Family Promise Returns

We are excited to announce that St. John's will be hosting Family Promise families for three weeks, from May 1-22. Currently there is one family in the program (a father and his 12-year-old son), with another family expected to join soon. Our youth ministry program is hosting a welcome party on Sunday, May 1, which will include supper and getting to know our guests. For the evenings that follow, we are asking volunteers from St. John's to sign up to provide dinner and/or spend time with the families. Family Promise staff will stay overnight each night, so overnight hosts are not needed. Please check the Signup Genius link in your Enews or contact the church office to sign up to participate!

Adult Forum Completes Book Study - Newcomers Invited

This book study will be held on the two Sundays after Easter: this morning and May 1, from 11 am to 12 pm, in person. The book is *Materiality as Resistance*: *Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World* by Walter Brueggemann. Copies of the book are available if you'd like to read in advance, but it is not necessary. Please contact Peter Knobel at 847-494-2815 if you would like a copy of the book or have any questions.

Considering Matthew Shepard: An Oratorio

In October of 1998, Matthew Shepard, a young, gay student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence and left to die in a lonely field under a blanket of stars. Five days later, when Matt passed away, the world was watching. Approaching the eve of the 20th anniversary, Craig Hella Johnson has responded with his first concert-length work, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. This three-part fusion oratorio speaks with a fresh and bold voice, incorporating a variety of musical styles seamlessly woven into a unified whole. Johnson sets a wide range of poetic and soulful texts by poets including Hildegard of Bingen, Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Browne, and Rumi. Passages from Matt's personal journal, interviews and writings from his parents Judy and Dennis Shepard, newspaper reports, and additional texts by Johnson and Browne are poignantly appointed throughout the work. Tickets can be purchased at chicagochoralartists.org/events.

Performance Dates:

- Friday, April 29, 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Lutheran Church (1500 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL)
- Saturday, April 30, 7:30 pm, Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division, River Forest, IL)
- Sunday, May 1, 4:00 pm Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division, River Forest, IL)

Bible Study Remains Online Only

Weekly Bible Study will remain meeting online from 11:00 am-12:00 pm on Tuesdays. Bible Study can be accessed via our worship Zoom link.

From Holy Family Ministries: You are invited to A Hope and A Future 2022!

Each year, Holy Family Ministries raises funds to enable west side children to attend our programs through our Spring Benefit. Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. You are invited to Holy Family Ministries' annual Spring Benefit in celebration and support of the children of Holy Family. Join us online from the comfort of your own home and share with us in a very special evening Saturday, April 30, 2022. "Virtual Doors" open at 6:45 pm. Program begins at 7:00 pm. Use the link in this week's eNews to register for free.

Visitors for Sarah

Sarah Rink, a regular participant at the Saturday service and now a participant in Sunday morning services, is looking for folks who would be willing to visit her in her home (1900 Wilmette Ave. #2F). She is experiencing chronic pain, and having visitors would be a great blessing in her life. She is open to hosting visitors at 4 pm or 5 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Sarah is fully vaccinated and happy to wear a mask if that is preferred. Please give her a call at 847-251-2758 to let her know when you can stop by!

Mask Update

Masks are now optional for activities at St. John's with the important exceptions of worship and youth programming. Worship leaders, including cantors/song leaders, may now remove masks while leading, but the congregation will remain masked and socially distanced from leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about our current policy, please contact our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, Christi Wise).

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

9:30 AM Hybrid Worship with

In-person Communion Class

10:30 AM Coffee Hour Reception for

Christine Kramer

11:00 AM Adult Forum: Materiality as Resistance

TUESDAY

11:00 AM Zoom-only Bible Study

THURSDAY

12:00 PM Zoom-only Men's Lunch

SUNDAY, MAY 1

9:30 AM Hybrid Worship with

In-Person Communion Class

10:30 AM Coffee Hour

11:00 AM Adult Forum: Materiality as Resistance

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IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Chad Johnson, shoulder replacement surgery on 4/27/22
- [†] The people of China, who are still suffering greatly from the Covid-19 pandemic (4/18/22)
- † The people of the US, that we as a predominantly white country may respond to the people of China's need with loving, useful action (4/18/22)
- David & Allie Swanson, son & daughter-in-law of Jan
 Rassenfoss & Alan Swanson, on the birth of a son, Daniel Joseph, on 4/12/22
- † Stephanie Gonder, recovery from oral surgery 3/28/22
- † Craig Gonder, recovery from hernia surgery on 3/23/22
- † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing (2/23/22)
- † Tyler MacAvoy, daughter of Bill & Medwin Kaspar, in need of healing (2/22/22)
- + Laurel Malhotra, in need of healing (2/23/22)
- [†] Larry Wood, recovering from successful surgery 2/10/22
- † Frank Ziegler, recovering from knee replacement
- † Carolyn Groves, mother of Mary Kastman, in need of healing
- † Sarah Rink, for recovery from chronic pain

- † The family & friends of Gilbert & Eleanor Basnik, father and stepmother of Linda Basnik, who died on 8/5/21 & 8/6/21
- + Amy Kohler, for safety and mental health (2/16/22)
- [†] Joanni Kric, recovering from hospitalization in Aug. 2021
- † Mark Voosen
- + Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury
- † The family & friends of Joyce Rank, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 8/29/21
- † The family and friends of Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, died 11/17/21
- † The family and friends of Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink, who died 11/21/21

SERVING TODAY

Guest Minister: The Rev. Erik Christensen

Assisting Minister:
Interim Music Director & Organist:
Cantor:
Minister of the Word:
Crucifer:
Jason Shutters
Christine Kraemer
Stephanie Chee
Jan Wendel
Chris Maglocci

Bell Ringers: St. John's Handbell Choir

Usher: Tom Morrison

Altar Guild: Susan Crist, Cindi Rachowicz,

Jan Wendel

First Communion Class:

Livestream Camera Operator:

Zoom Host:

Coffee Hour Hosts:

Derek Stienmetz

Luke Rasmussen

Luke Rasmussen

Jan Wendel