

# UCC Northern Cluster and St. John Evangelical Lutheran

## Ascension Day Worship

May 9, 2024

7:00pm

Held at St. John Church, 215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, PA

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### Celebration of the Word and Music

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude – Adagio, BWV 546–Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) and Silent Prayer

\*Confession and Forgiveness:

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Gracious God,

**ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE TURNED FROM YOU AND GIVEN OURSELVES INTO THE POWER OF SIN. WE ARE TRULY SORRY AND HUMBLY REPENT. IN YOUR COMPASSION FORGIVE US OUR SINS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, THINGS WE HAVE DONE AND THINGS WE HAVE FAILED TO DO. TURN US AGAIN TO YOU, AND UPHOLD US BY YOUR SPIRIT, SO THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**ALL: AMEN.**

\*Hymn #393 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

\*Apostolic Greeting:

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

**ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

\*Prayer of the Day:

**ALL: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR BLESSED SON, OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, ASCENDED FAR ABOVE ALL HEAVENS THAT HE MIGHT FILL ALL THINGS. MERCIFULLY GIVE US FAITH TO TRUST THAT, AS HE PROMISED, HE ABIDES WITH US ON EARTH TO THE END OF TIME, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.**

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Organ Piece – I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 639–J.S. Bach

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

\*Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

Extinguishing of Paschal Candle

Sermon

Organ Piece – When We Are in Utmost Need, BWV 641–J.S. Bach

Apostles' Creed:

**ALL: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

**I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON, OR LORD. WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED. HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, HE IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. AND HE WILL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.**

**I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.**

Organ Piece and Offering – Sleepers, Wake! BWV 645--J.S. Bach

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word:

**P:** Let us pray.

**P:** Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God.

**ALL: WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE.**

**P:** By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God.

**ALL: WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE.**

**P:** Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness; forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God.

**ALL: WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE.**

**P:** Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**ALL: AMEN.**

\*Our Lord's Prayer:

**ALL: 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.**

\*Benediction:

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

**ALL: AMEN.**

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

**ALL: AMEN.**

**P:** The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

**ALL: AMEN.**

\*Hymn #604 “O Christ, Our Hope”

\*Organ Postlude – Double Fugue in F, BWV 540–J.S. Bach and We Depart to Serve

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\*Please stand, if able to do so.

### **This Evening's Worship Leaders**

Pastor Thomas Bruner	Host
Pastor Ray Holland	Preacher
Pastor Su Rider	Leader
Pastor Dale Thomas	Leader
Pastor Jeffrey Wagner	Leader
Thomas Dressler	Organist
Derrick Henry	Acolyte
Grayton Foreman	Acolyte
Courtney Foreman	Lead Usher

### **About Our Organist**

Thomas Dressler is an 8th generation descendant of the founding pastor of St. John, J. Michael Enderlein, through J. Michael Enderlein, Jr. He grew up on the Enterline farm in Rush Township, near Snyderstown. He graduated from Susquehanna University with a Bachelor of Music, and from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ with a Master of Music, both in Organ Performance. He played his first full organ recital at the age of 14 in Freeburg, PA, and has been performing regularly for the past 48 years. His specialty is historic instruments and techniques, and he has performed on most of the oldest organs in the US, as well as instruments like the organ at the West Point Cadet Chapel--the largest church organ in the world. He has performed almost every year since 1990 on the historic organ at Round Lake, NY, the only musical instrument designated a National Historic Landmark in the US. He has appeared on local television programs in Philadelphia, the Poconos, and upstate New York, and was interviewed by Erika Funke on ArtScene on WVIA. He has released two CDs, one recorded at Round Lake, NY and the other at Princeton Theological Seminary. He has taught music at the college level and was Dean of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for three years. He is currently Director of Music (organist/choir director) at College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton, PA.

**This Evening's Offering will be directed to the support of the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens.**