

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jun 06-10 (5:30 – 8:30 pm) VBS “Monumental” (Celebrating God’s Greatness)

Invite your friends! Sign up online: www.mybslc.org

Next Sunday is part of Memorial Day Weekend. This begins our summer recess from Sunday School. During the summer please prayerfully consider becoming a Sunday School teacher next fall and/or joining our Christian Education committee. Stay tuned for other opportunities to serve and be involved during the summer. Thank God, HE does not take vacations from us! Neither should we from Him.

Pioneer On the Lake – Servant Retreat (July 24-29). Please contact Pastor Vern if you would like information or contact: Erika Schroth-Gajdos, Administrative Manager, at Office@pioneeronthelake.com or 716-383-6157.

Farewell TODAY to PJ, Melanie & Talek Aarsvold as they prepare to leave for their new home in Denver to serve the people of St John’s Lutheran Church. Nathan Nelson will not be leaving quite so soon (July) but is preparing for his vicarage assignment with Mt Calvary LC, in Decatur, IL. Nathan will be returning in the Fall of 2023 for his last year at Concordia Seminary. Matt Martin will be around for another year upon which he will receive his “convertible” vicarage assignment.

For information on all church events, sermon recordings, church calendar, newsletters:

GO TO: www.mybslc.org

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 118:24; John 16:23, 33*

P: This is the day that the LORD has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: On another day, the one before He gave His life for us, our Lord said, “In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you.” Today, this side of Easter, we are gathered to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise. His Word and our experience reminds us that we cannot free ourselves from our sinning and our sinful condition, so let us ask our heavenly Father for forgiveness for Jesus’ sake, trusting in His promise to forgive.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

P: Almighty God,

C: have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: The angel of the Lord spoke to John in a revelation concerning the New Jerusalem from heaven saying, “nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 24:27). Though we are found guilty before God’s holy law, God has given us a deliverance from judgment. In John’s first inspired letter he writes; “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Dear Friends in Christ, in your baptism you have been washed clean. While the power of sin still clings to us, God’s power to cleanse is more powerful. In fullness of faith, receive His blood-bought forgiveness and the purity that comes with trusting in Christ. Your sins have been paid in full and you are free to walk in the Light of Christ, knowing that Your names are written in the book of life; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’ S MESSAGE/SONG OF PRAISE “This Little Gospel Light”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good,

C: by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE FIRST READING for the 6th Sunday of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16.
(Acts 16:9–15)

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

The EPISTLE is from the Revelation of St John, the 21st chapter. *(Rev 21:9–14, 21–27)*

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 16:33b*

**L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
Death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.**

**C: In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:23–33*

(Because of Christ's victory, we can pray directly to our Father in heaven.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of Light”

**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain:

**In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. (Refrain)**

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)**

**I’m looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)**

SERMON “Keep Your Eyes Fixed on the Light” PJ Aarsvold

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED *stand*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm 67:3*

L: Lord, our heavenly Father, You never refuse the cries of Your children. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help and protection over the youth in our church and as they are taught to keep their eyes on the Light of Jesus they may be built up in faith and love for You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord God, Your command to make disciples includes baptizing and teaching everything You have commanded. We give You thanks for faithful Sunday School teachers who, week after week, ground us in our faith in Christ and speak to us with His words of grace and forgiveness. Give us all hearts to hear Your Gospel message, lips to offer our prayers in faith and readiness to give of ourselves for Your sake. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, only You can offer true peace to our broken world. By Your resurrected life, let the forgiveness of sins dwell in every home that husbands and wives, parents and children may be strengthened by the bonds of Your love and peace. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, give wisdom to our leaders and government, that they may lead with integrity and according to Your perfect will. Protect police officers, emergency personnel, disaster-relief workers and the members of our armed forces as they serve in our defense and for the well-being of all. Let the love of Jesus spread throughout the land and thereby making light work for those who make and administer our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, You hear our prayers for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus. In His name, we cast our burdens upon You. Come to the aid of those in need physically, emotionally and spiritually today. Bring Your healing graces to **Gwen & Wayne Kemp, Paul Kjosa, Mary Stake, Cassie Brogan, Marcia Kempton**, and to those on our prayer list who have been seeking relief from their afflictions over many months.

Sustain us all in the midst of terror and trial, and hear us as we cry out on this day of Your Son's resurrection. Be with those who were injured in the senseless shooting in Buffalo last week. Comfort the families of the ten innocent victims who lost their lives. Let Your Holy Spirit bring conviction to those who bring threats of violence and replace their hardened hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Let the prayers of Your righteous people in Christ be effective to bring peace in the Ukraine and in every place where property and lives are being destroyed and economies ruined. Reign over us, Lord Jesus, with Your loving and powerful grace that we may be awakened to the joys of living under Your sovereign rule and protection. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, let Your eternal light shine upon **Melanie Aarsvold, Greg Conrad, Pastor Daniel Kofi, Noah Geis, Gary Williams, Travis Lintvedt, Jon Williams, and Haley Gefferth** who celebrate their birthdays this week.

And bless with holy love and devotion the wedding anniversaries of **Don & Laura Drouin, Greg & Ginger Kieffer, and Dave & Loriann Reynolds**. We thank you that you have freely given them your presence, strength, help and hope. We pray that You would bind them closer to You and each other so that they will continue to grow in their ability to work together for the good of each other, for the good of their family and for the good of the world. Lord in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

Finally Lord, today is a bitter-sweet day. A Day of sadness for our church family yet a day of rejoicing for the Church at large and particularly for St John's Lutheran Church and their satellite campus where PJ will take up his charge as pastor over this flock. Watch over Your servant as he walks in the footsteps of the prophets and Apostles of old and accepts the task of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus to the people living in the Denver area. Grant him humility sufficient to remind him Whom he serves and success according to Your goodwill for the advancement of Your kingdom. Protect him and his family from all harm and danger as they battle against the forces of evil in this dark world. Bless Melanie and Talek in their new church home and strengthen their family bond as they face the challenges of ministry in the days, months and years ahead.

Be with our brother Nathan also, as he takes up his role as "vicar" at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. Increase his knowledge, wisdom and experience in the pastoral ministry that he may be enabled to serve you with his giftedness to the glory of Your name and to the benefit of Your people. Strengthen his faith that no barrier may impede his progress except for that which Your Holy Spirit places before him in order to protect him against the devil and his schemes. And whatever trials come his way, give him victory that Your holy Church may flourish and grow to the glory of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

Now into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

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 SONG “Shine, Jesus, Shine” W&M by Graham Kendrick
c. 1987 Make Way Music CCLI 691913

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me, shine on me.

CHORUS:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace & mercy,
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me, Shine on me. (Chorus)**

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, shine on me. (Chorus)**

FAREWELL

PJ & Melanie & Talek Aarsvold

(Ordination and Installation at St. John's LC, Denver, CO

Nathan Nelson (Vicarage Assignment at Mt. Calvary LC, in Decatur, IL)

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!