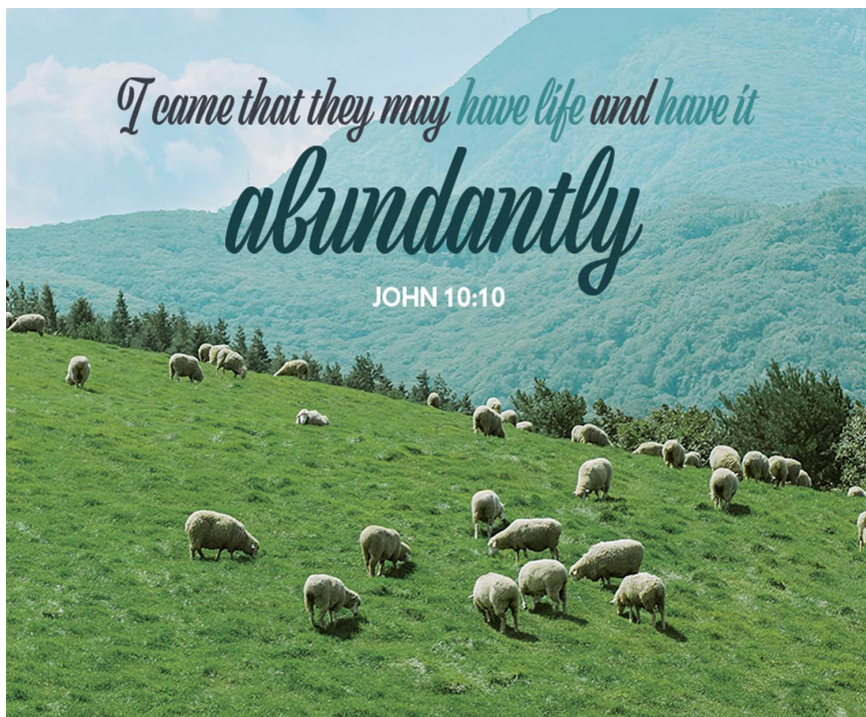




Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



St. John Lutheran Church

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5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjoh1875@g mail.com

April 26, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

#492

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P The word is near you,

C on your lips and in your heart.

P If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

P and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

+ SCRIPTURE SONG

☞ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

① Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;

just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.

Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?



☪ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☪ For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All



na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,



for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.



☪ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . . O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Great Thou Art Ryleigh Blagg, Leigh Ann Henry

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the

proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

PSALM: 23

P The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

**C He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

P He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**C Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;**

P For thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**C Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
My cup runneth over.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

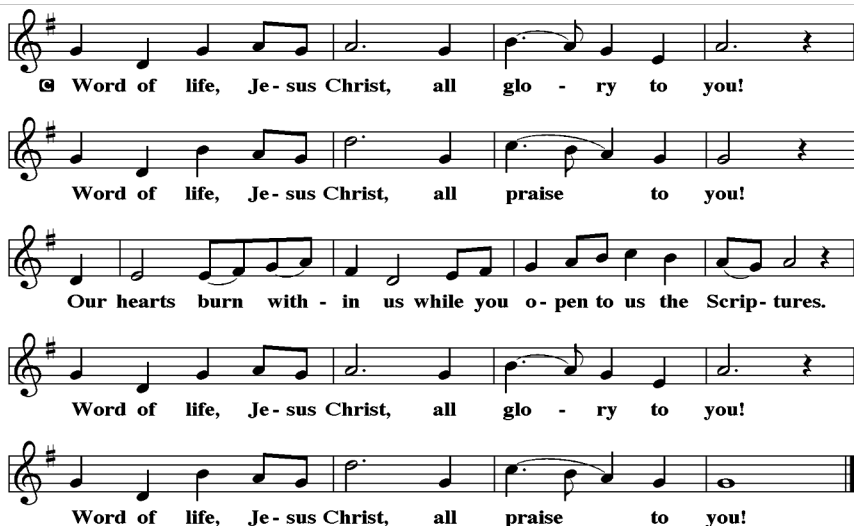
SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Kruse

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
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Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** *(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C **Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.**

Silence for reflection and self examination.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C **Amen**

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY

Create in Me

The musical score is written on four staves in G-clef, 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it."

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O Holy Spirit, We pray for our next pastor. We know not who you are making ready to come and be with us, but we ask that you speed our meeting with one another, and that you make us ready to seek new adventures with a new shepherd at our side. Grant that we might make ready today to find the new tomorrow you desire for St. John Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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

+ BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

+ SENDING SONG

What A Fellowship

#780

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,
 lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Acolytes
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Rick Williams
Jane Bussler
James & Kym Hayman

Nancy Williams, James & Kym Hayman
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Rod Schneider, Ed Hughes, Brenda Moore, Donna Arnett, Ken Staker, Pastor Dennis King, Luke White, Jim Webb, Greg Piguet, Mary McQuay, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

THE BLANKET PROJECT GROUP will meet this Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Come and join as we meet every Tuesday morning! Everyone is welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders April 26 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room. **CONFIRMATION** will be Sunday, May 3.

CONFIRMATION is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our confirmands are Drew DeGonzague and Emmett Salyers. A reception will follow worship. Plan to come and join in the celebration of this important ministry.

YOU ARE INVITED to breakfast with the Graduates. Each graduate will have a table of picture and accomplishments. You will be able to stop by each table and congratulate them. We have a lot of graduates this year and this will help streamline parties for our congregation. We hope you can join them early on May 10 at 9:15a.m. May God continue to guide their steps in service to him and to others, wherever their paths might lead, and may Christ go with them into their bright new future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Vacation Bible school is just around the corner! Plans are already in place, and we need your help! The dates for this summer 's VBS will be June 22 through the 26th from 5:30 to 8:15 pm. Again this year we will be having a kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Our theme this year is Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Vivian know!
(740.464.1914) We are looking forward to another fun filled successful year of VBS with our children!

This Week at St. John

Today—*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir

Next Sunday—*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*—**Confirmation**

Attendance

2026 Average: 70

2025 Average 62

Serving Next Sunday, May 3

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Lay Reader

Dené DeGonzague

Prayer Leader

Renee Basham

Greeter

Acolytes

Altar Committee

Vicki Floyd, Vivian Riffel

Council President

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Kymber Thavkston, Evan Ramey, Barb Montgomery, Melody Knapp

BAPTISMS: Mary Ramey, Garrett Staker, Austin Blagg, Ryleigh Blagg, Leslie Hunt

ANNIVERSARIES: Dan & Ruth Beekman,

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, May 3 Confirmation

Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 a.m. Graduation Sunday

Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Tuesday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, June 22-26 at 5:30 p.m. –8:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School
Kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Blanket Project

**Will begin meeting again on Tuesday,
at 10:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome to join.

Confirmation

**Sunday, May 3 during worship.
A reception will follow worship.**

Honoring Our High School Graduates

Sunday, May 10

Join us for breakfast with the Graduates. Each graduate will have a table of picture and accomplishments. You will be able to stop by each table and congratulate them.

Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls

June 22 –26

**Kid friendly light supper for children and families.
VBS Program June 28 during worship**