

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
a reconciling in Christ congregation



Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

9:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Jamie Edelman

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

E-mail : Admin@stjohnseaston.org

www.stjohnseaston.org

Statement of Welcome

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, **YOU ARE WELCOME** to participate in Communion. There are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Announcements

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,

C: Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the workers of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** ELW #880

“O God beyond All Praising”

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**

- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us
free,
and we through him are given the final victory.**

- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you
still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

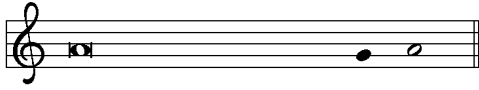
Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996 Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***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.

***Kyrie** (Congregation please quietly sing parts in bold)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



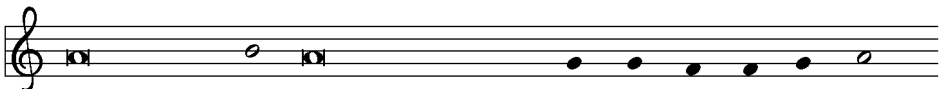
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***Canticle of Praise** (congregation sing quietly after 1st line)

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: Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

(Spoken responsively)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

**⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

**¹⁵that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for

you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel**

Mark 4:26-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

***Apostles Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.

Hymn of the Day - ELW # 580

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.

- 2 But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and life itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.**
- 3 We marvel how your saints become
in hindrances more sure;
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.**
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored done.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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*** Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Encourage your church, to spread the good news of your grace so that it may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Holy Creator, all Your creation delights in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new growth. Restore all places that suffer or need your healing hand. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of pain and hopelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians, including our Director of Music who we welcome back today. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

* *The Sharing of the Peace*

(remain seated and gesture a sign of peace to those around you.)

P: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

* **Presentation of Gifts** *(Please join in speaking.)*

“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

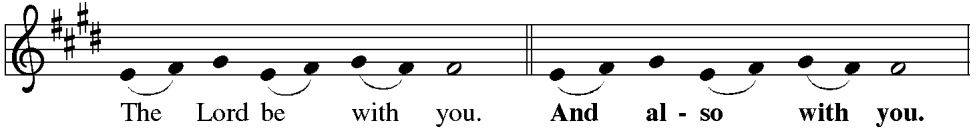
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* **Offering Prayer**

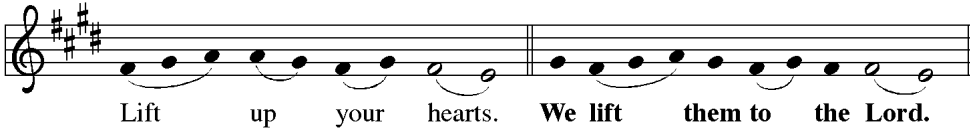
A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: **Amen.**

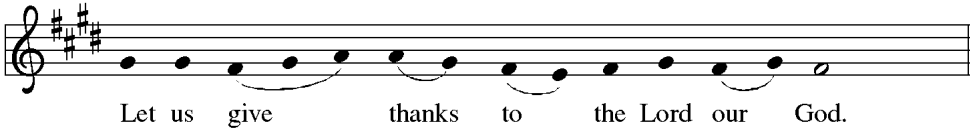
***Great Thanksgiving** (*Congregation sing response quietly.*)



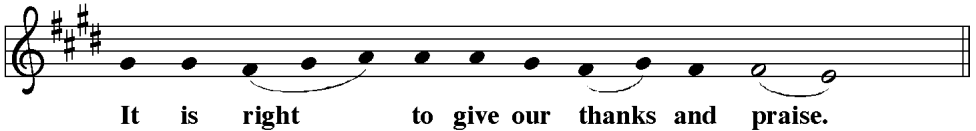
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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** (*Pastor continues . . .*)

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all time and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Form

(Pastor continues ...)

***Lord's Prayer**

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.

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table here at St. John's.*

**Please remain seated, communion will be offered to you in your pew.
(Please ask for gluten free or grape juice if necessary.)*

Communion Music *“ Hymn Medley”*

*** Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provided for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please remain in your seat until the candles have been extinguished and the Pastor has left the Sanctuary.)

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Jim Heck

Ushers – Michelle Fritzo / Wayne Docker

Reader – Chuck Lewis

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: June 13th – June 20th

Today (6/13/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Monday (6/14/21) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm - Chapel

Tuesday (6/15/21) – Bible Study – “Luke”, 5:30 pm - Chapel

Thursday (6/17/21) – Bible Study – “The Epistles”, 5:30 pm - Chapel

Sunday (6/20/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Sunday (6/20/21) – Property Meeting, following worship - Office

Altar Flowers are presented in gratitude for all the Lord's blessing of our loved ones from here to South Carolina to Switzerland by Caroline & Steve Moyer



Attendance: 6/6/21 –52 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$3,275.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$46545.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$51,865.00



The Outreach Committee was collecting bottles of shampoo, (adult & children's) for the Bethlehem / Easton Mission District Ingathering. Thank you to all who donated, We have reached our goal and then some !



We are **ALSO** looking for volunteers to help at the Ingathering if you are interested, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.



Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord . . .

We are pleased to welcome back our Music Director – Jessica Madow today!

We are a Praying Church!

Prayer Concerns: Marge, Chuck, Anthony, Shirley, Deanna, Karen, Bob, Dave, Dawn, Don, Jim & Shirley, Dave, Jane, Walter, Karen, Kevin, Carmen, Jim, Lori, Terry, Gary, Jean, Gail, Daniel, Matthew, and the Family and Friends Catherine James, Joan Fulmer, Kelly Adams, Lee Wisner, & Sheila Gerry

If you have any prayer requests or needs, please let us know, and let us pray for you.

We invite you to take this prayer list home and pray.

Prayer Requests can be added by contacting the church office at 610-258-6119 or email Admin@stjohnseaston.org, or by filling out a request from the pew cards.



(Requested will be removed at the beginning of the following month unless notified.)