

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

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



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 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

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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

“Finn Jenta/Simple Gifts”

(Trad. Norwegian/Trad. Shaker Song, 1848)

James Heck, violin

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** ELW #611

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's light;
 look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright."
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
 and in that light of life I'll walk
 till trav'ling days are done.

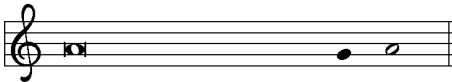
Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

***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.



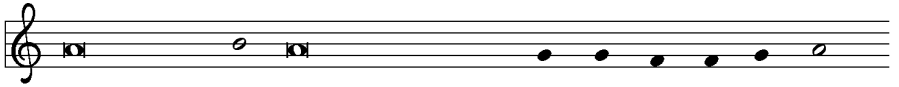
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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)*

Assisting minister

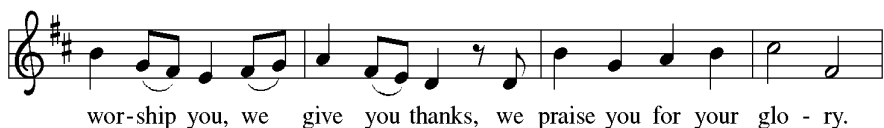


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



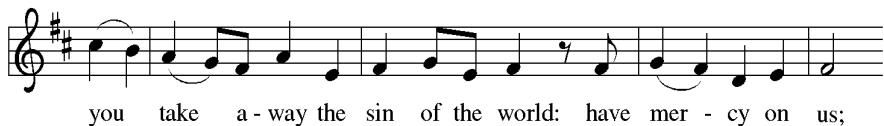
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



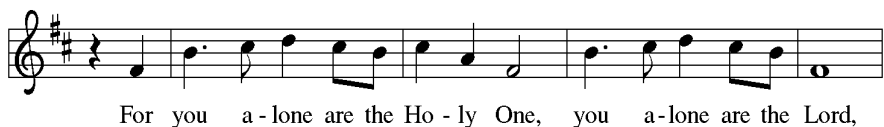
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Spoken responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**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

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—

¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants

of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel**

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went

ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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 # 676

“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

- 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek
your straying children, lost and lone.**

- 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**

- 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

- 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
until our very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Tend to your church, O God. Encourage all who proclaim the good news through word and deed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Restore your creation, O God. Nourish the earth with sun and rain. Feed creatures great and small with the harvest of your land. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill including those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministry of feeding and nurturing neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

ELW: # 184 *“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



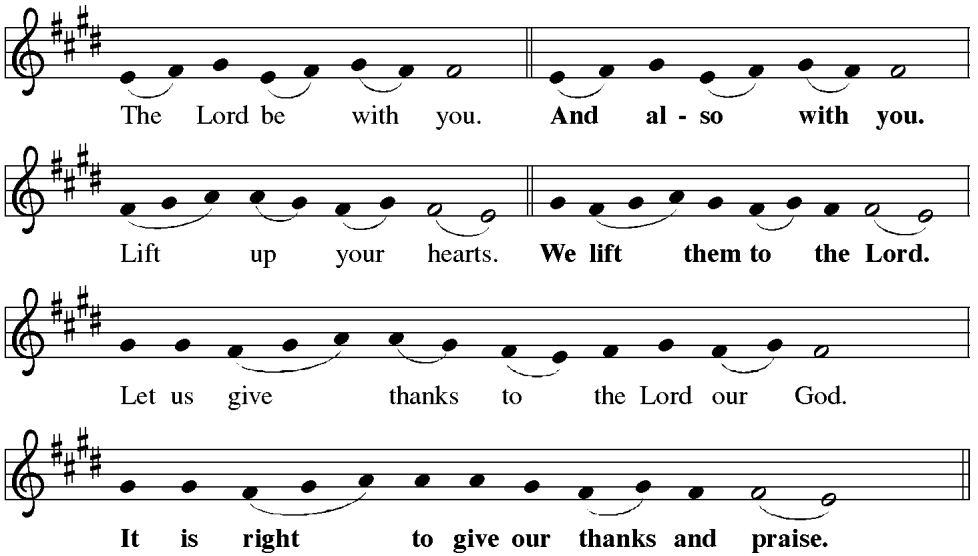
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*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

ELW #481 *"Come to the Table"*

ELW #483 *"Here Is Bread"*

ELW #484 *"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

*** 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.

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

*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.

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Joyce Petty
Ushers – Linda Kalapay / Connie Garr
Reader – Wayne Docker
Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Carolyn Moyer

This Week at St. John's: July 18th – July 25th

Today (7/18/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Today (7/18/21) – Church Workday / Property, following worship.

Thursday (7/22/21) – Prayer Group, 9:30, Chapel

Sunday (7/25/21) – Worship, 9:30 am

Sunday (7/25/21) – Altar Guild Meeting, Chapel, following worship

Sunday (7/25/21) – Fine Arts Comm., Gallery, following worship

Sunday (7/25/21) – VBS Orientation, Following Worship

Altar Flowers are dedicated in gratefulness and loving memory of our parents, Charles & Mary Black, and Bob & Gloria Brown.



Altar Flower Sponsors are needed for All August dates. Please think about sponsoring flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or event.

Thank you to Jim Heck for sharing his special music with us today!!



Attendance: 7/11/21 –49 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,955.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$55,959.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$63,140.00

**NEWS
LET
TER** **Help
Needed..**

**We are in need of volunteers to help fold / prepare the Newsletter to be mailed. We are meeting at 9:30 am on July 23rd. If you are available, your help would be appreciated.
Thank you!**

**CHURCH WORKDAY – TODAY!!
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
PLEASE JOIN US!**

