

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Reformation Sunday

October 24, 2021

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Jamie Edelman

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

Guest Organist Today!

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

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

***Gathering Hymn** *(please use your hymnal, and sing quietly)*

ELW #504

“A Mighty Fortress is our God”

***Greeting**

A: 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.





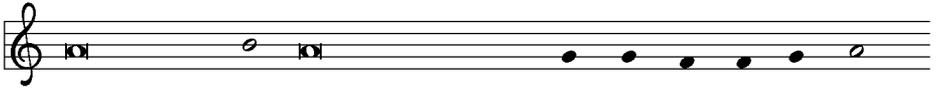
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

(Spoken responsively)

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the
earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* *Gospel*

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the

truth, and the truth will make you free.”³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father

and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day - *(please use your hymnal, and sing quietly)*

ELW #645 *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*

*** Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Strengthen the church to rediscover paths of love throughout the world and raise up teachers and leaders to guide communities of faith into joyful ways of welcoming, worshiping, healing, praying, singing, feeding, teaching, loving, and living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Embolden movements of people to care for the world around us. Reveal to us creation’s beauty and teach us to care for your fields, valleys, mountains, streams, oceans, and deserts, so that future generations will continue to be awed by them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Provide refuge and help for all who lack adequate food, housing, or health care. Strengthen organizations that provide neighborly care to all who struggle. Heal and be present with all who are sick or suffering in any way 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: Pour out your wisdom upon this community O Lord. Let your vision of neighborly love and justice infuse every one of your people. Help us to trust in your mercy, freely offering others what you give us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

C: Amen.

*** *The Sharing of the Peace***

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

A: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Offertory

* Presentation of Gifts

ELW: # 184

“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

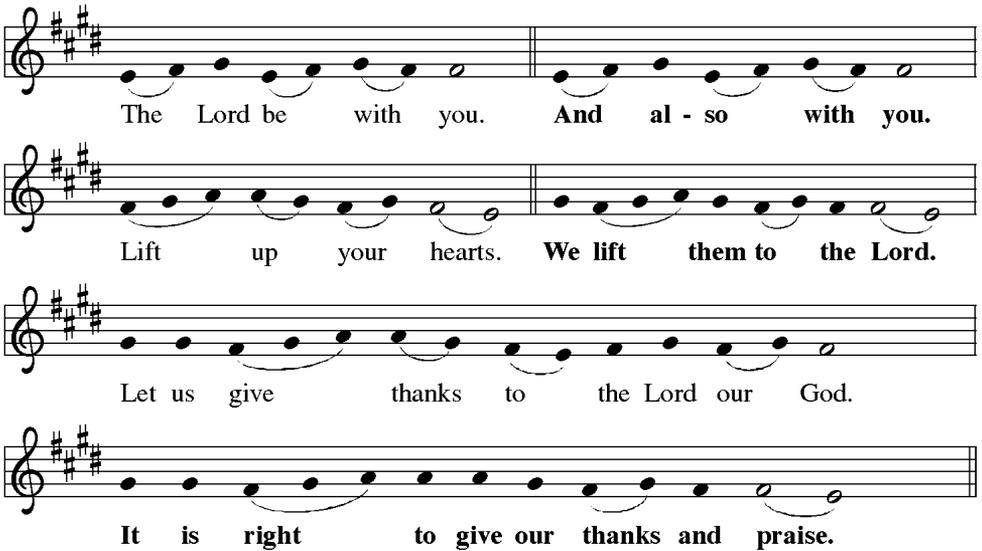
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

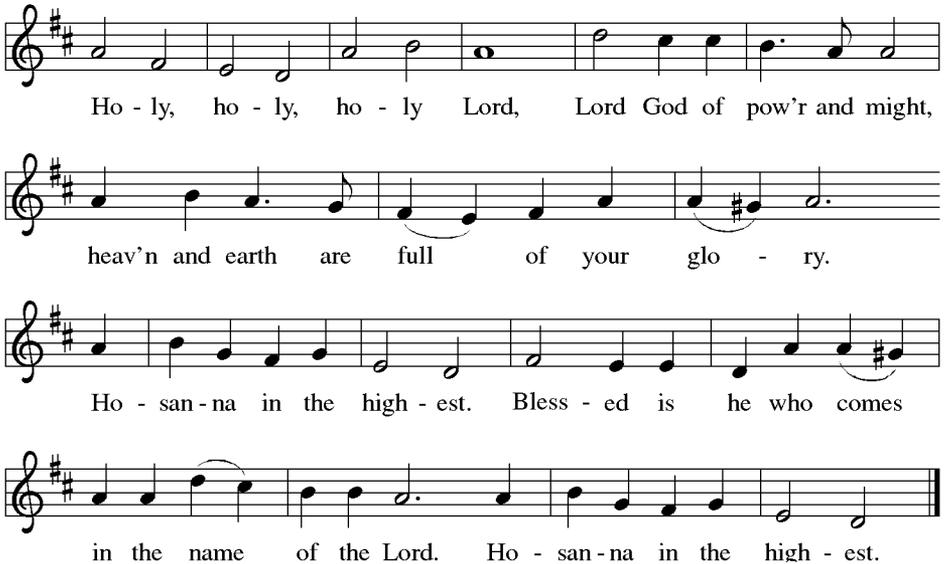
* Preface

(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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: (please sing quietly.)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Communion Form

(Leader 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

*** Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth
in the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance
of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.)

A: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✚ one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

- Reformation Day -

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Roger Ruggles
Communion Assistant / Ushers – Bob Black / Volunteer
Reader – John Fritchman
Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: Oct. 24th – Oct. 31st

Today (10/24/21) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am,
Breakfast 8:15 am

Today (10/24/21) – Reformation Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

Tuesday (10/26/21) – Bible Study, Thomas' Residence, 11:00 am

Wednesday (10/27/21) – Church Social Mixer –
Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm

Thursday (10/28/21) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am, Chapel

Sunday (10/31/21) – Sunday School / Adult Forum
(Breakfast 8:15 am, Classes 9:00 am)

Sunday (10/31/21) – Worship, 10:30 am – **All Saints Sunday**

Sunday (10/31/21) – Octoberfest Luncheon, following Worship

Sunday (10/31/21) – Finance Meeting, Office, Following Worship

Monday (11/1/21) – Intern Meeting, Hospitality Rm, 6:30 pm

*Altar Flowers are dedicated in honor of my family, the
greatest family ever! by Loretta Heck*



Attendance: 10/17/21 – 55 people

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|---|-------------|
| Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$2,536.84 |
| Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$2,255.00 |
| Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$92,542.00 |
| Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$94,710.00 |



The Membership Committee will be hosting a "Octoberfest" Luncheon on October 31st following Worship.

Please Join Us!

Membership Committee is providing the lunch, and asks Congregation Members to provide Desserts to share.

BaconFest Parking Attendants Needed . . .

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



**November 6th – November 7th,
10:00 – 5:00 pm shifts available.**

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We are a Praying Church!

Prayer Concerns: Clark, Deanna, Pamela, Chuck, Helen, Serena & Luka, Stacey, Amy, Dylan, Bob, Carmen, Colleen, David, Denise, Shirley, Karen, Sandy, Bob, Lisa, Kristy, Terry, Dave, Jane, Walter, Jim, Shirley, Reverend Kock, Linda, Kevin, Andrea, Gail Joan, Nancy, and Tom.

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.)