

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

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.

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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, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Service Notes:

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

Hymn Book Abbreviations:

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book
WOV – With One Voice
ACS – All Creation Sings

Gathering

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

Welcome

Prelude *“In Christ There Is No East or West”*
(African American spiritual - adapt. Harry Burleigh)

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW #449 *"We Know that Christ Is Raised"*

***Greeting**

- page 147

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**

- page 147

***Canticle of Praise**

"This is the Feast . . ."

- page 149

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 98

¹Sing new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

- page 151

*** Gospel**

John 15: 9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have

loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Rev. Mike Button

**Hymn of the Day* —

ELW #358 *"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"*

**Nicene Creed*

C: 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.

****Prayers of Intercession***

A: Let us pray. Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray all including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (African American spiritual)
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

***Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

***Offertory Hymn** ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards”*

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.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

*** Preface** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 153

***Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Lord's Prayer** - page 154

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***Invitation to Communion** - page 154

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.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

Communion Hymns

ELW #482 ***“I Come with Joy”***

ELW #595 ***“Jesus Loves Me!”***

ELW #838 ***“Beautiful Savior”***

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #207 " *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*"



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW #836 *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Jim Heck

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Bob Black

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's May 5th – May 12th

Today (5/5/24) – Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

Today (5/5/24) – Following Worship: Finance

Today (5/5/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Monday (5/6/24) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (5/7/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (5/8/24) – Bible Study, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (5/8/24) – Council Reports Due

Saturday (5/11/24) – Archives, 10:00 am

Sunday (5/12/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (5/12/24) – Ascension Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday (5/12/24) – Following Worship: Membership, Office

Sunday (5/12/24) – Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm

Monday (5/13/24) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Monday (5/13/24) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

*Altar Flowers Sponsors are needed.
Please see the list in the Narthex.*



Attendance: 56

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$3,015.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$36,138.00

**ADULT FORUM:
SUNDAYS @ 9:00 AM IN THE GALLERY**

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, James, Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Maria, Matt, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Madelyn, Jeff, Bill, Charlie Caitlin, Mike, Sarah, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the St. John's Call Committee



The Gallery at St. John's presents . . .



The works of *Mary Button*

Open – Sunday's 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Mary is a teacher, writer, designer, speaker, illustrator, and daughter of Pastor Mike and Carolyn Button. Come see the liturgical and devotional art she creates and get inspired.

May Benevolence, Safe Harbor

Spring is a time for new beginnings and the residents of Safe Harbor of Easton sure do know about fresh starts and new beginnings.

MISSION: Fostering lifelong success and stability in homeless men and women by addressing the root causes of their homelessness.

Monetary donations can be put in the offering plate marked "Safe Harbor", made online, or by check mailed to:

Safe Harbor Easton, 536 Bushkill Drive, Easton, Pa. 18042.

Tell others about the wonderful work done at Safe Harbor!



For Your Information:

The church council at St. John's has approved the use of the Chapel on a trial basis to the Solo Las Escriuras Congregation beginning today - May 5th, 2024

Solo Las Escriuras has been looking for a space to worship and we are happy to help. They will be meeting, Sundays from 2-4:00 pm, and will also have use of the Hospitality Room and Nursery. We welcome them !!



Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike.

Make an online donation:

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

Give a monthly gift:

Become a monthly partner and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Mail your donation:

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Put your donations in the offering plate:

Please mark "Lutheran Disaster Relief"

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- 3. "I Come with Joy" (ELW #482, Text: Brian Wren © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company.)*

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Order your Red Geraniums for Pentecost. . .

Red geraniums hold special significance during the Feast of Pentecost, which is traditionally celebrated 50 days after Easter. The vibrant red petals of geraniums symbolize the tongues of fire that descended upon the apostles during the first Pentecost.

Honor or Memorialize a loved one in honor of Pentecost . . .

Plant Cost: \$8.00 (Deadline 5/10/24)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory / Honor / Other: _____

Amount Paid: _____