

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Second Sunday of Epiphany

January 8, 2023

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Vanessa Storlie

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

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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.

Nursery – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

Service Notes – * (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude

*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Thus say our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 312 “*Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*”

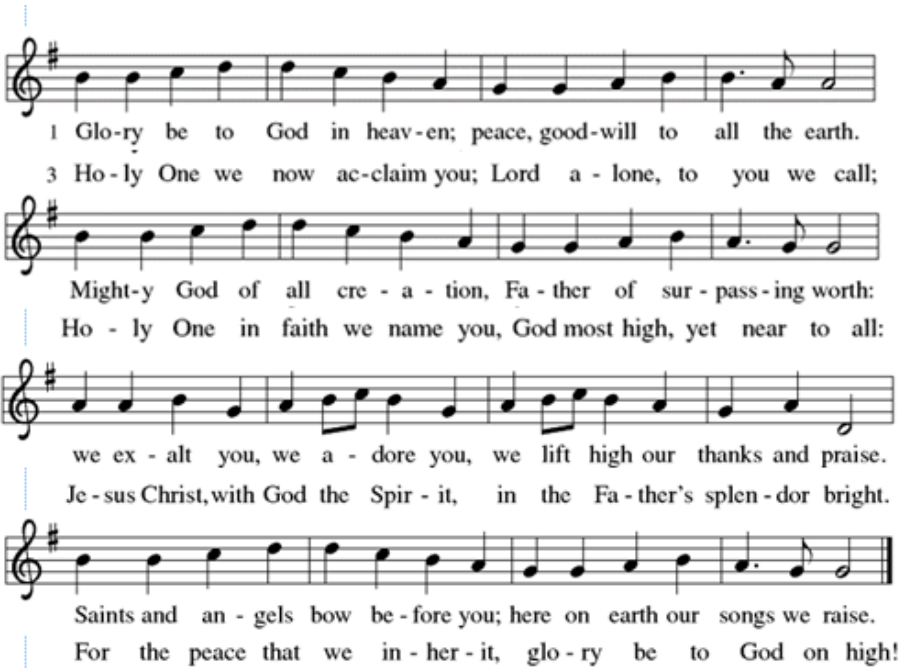
*Greeting

L: 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.

*Canticle of Praise

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1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;
Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.
Saints and an-gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Holy God, our strength, and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 40:1-11

¹I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

²**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴**Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

⁷And so I said, “Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**⁸‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

**¹⁰I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have
spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from
the great assembly.**

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are
sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all
those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you
have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day

of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

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Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel**

John 1:29-42

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not

know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Chat

Sermon: Vicar Vanessa Storlie

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 737 *“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”*

***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.

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Put a new song in the mouths of all believers to tell of your faithfulness and share the good news of your salvation through Jesus with all the earth. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: On cliffs and coastlands, in wombs and rivers, you are there. In water, we see the power to both give and take life. Preserve the world's waters and their life-sustaining capacity. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, and poverty. May your light shine in the shadows and may we be signs of your faithfulness to all in need including those we mention on our prayer list, ... and those we name aloud or in our hearts...Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: As we remember the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., help those you have called to be your servants continue to glorify you. Give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice and to act with bold faith and trust in your promises. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

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

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed forward to receive the offering plates from the Altar and begin to pass them through the pews.)

Offertory “We Are Marching in the Light” (ELW #866)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir & the Congregation

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #292 “Love Has Come” (vs. 2)

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now a -
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving**

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L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Preface**

(Leader continues . . .)

*Holy, Holy, Holy

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Communion Form

(Leader continues . . .)

*Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

*Lamb of God

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1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Please remain at the front until the entire table has communed and you are dismissed.
Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

Communion Music—

ELW #472 *“Eat This Bread”*

ELW #465 *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

ELW #474 *“Bread of Life from Heaven”*

*Post Communion Canticle

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Now, Lord, you let your ser- vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

***Blessing**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ELW #314 *“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”*

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Follow in the ways of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

Reader – Mike Thompson

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: January 15th – January 22nd

Today (1/15/23) – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany, Worship 10:30 am

Monday (1/16/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (1/17/23) Bible Study, 11:00 am – Chapel with “ZOOM”

Friday (1/20/23) –Newsletter Deadline

Sunday (1/22/23) – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, Worship 10:30 am

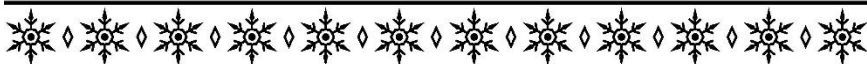
Sunday (1/22/23) – Gallery Opening Reception 12:00-3:00 pm

Sunday (1/22/23) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

Annual Meeting, January 29th, 2023

– following Worship

Join us for this Important Event.



Altar Flowers are dedicated
to the Glory of God –
by Brad & Ruth Thomas



Gallery News:
Next Artist in the Gallery
will be David Berkner, whose
work depicts scenes from the
Last Supper painted on
refrigerator doors. The show
"say Grace" opens on
January 22, 2023.

We are updating the Directory for 2023 . . .
If you have any changes, please notify
the Church Office.

Thank you!



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8. "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (ELW #314, Text: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Pub, Inc.,)

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We are a Praying Church !

Prayer Concerns: Bonita, Larry, Betty, Bonita, Chuck, Dennis, Julie, Clark, Renee and Family, Rosemary, Stella, Steve, Paul, Bill, Jeff, Danny, Lorraine, Bob, Eleanor, Nicole, Kirk, David, The Hauber Family, Gene, Hilda, Judy, Luis, Melissa, Tom, and our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Mary Remel.

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.)

