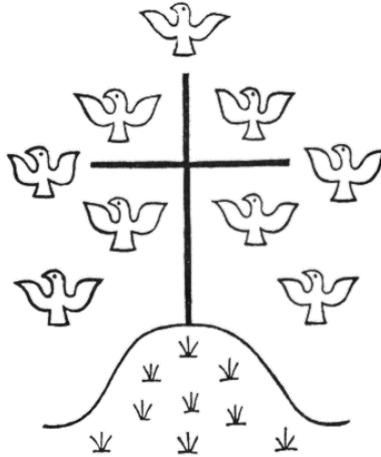


Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 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

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, 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 *“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*
arr. Stan Pethel - James Heck, violin

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: 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.

P: Thus says 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 # 717 *“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”*

*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.**

*Canticle of Praise

page 204



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 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:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
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.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
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.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
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, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their
word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



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**

Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Chat

Sermon: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 793 *“Be Thou My Vision”*

**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. Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom 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: Creator God, we marvel in awe of the expansiveness of your creation. Your margins of diversity are boundless, and for that, we thank you. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday, we acknowledge that each of us are beautifully and wonderfully made, all in Your image. Soften our hearts to welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. Teach us to learn and relearn with humility and excitement. 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**

P: 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 “O God, Whose Word Well-Planted” (ACS #975)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir with James Heck, violin

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #188 “Create in Me”

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***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**

page 206

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: 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

page 207

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

P: 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

page 208



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 # 496 *“One Bread, One Body”*

ELW # 492 *“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”*

ELW # 477 *“I Received the Living God”*

*Post Communion Canticle

page 113



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 #546 *"To Be Your Presence"*

***Dismissal**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Team – Pastor Sue Ruggles / Vicar Vanessa Storlie

Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Dee Caul

Reader – Charlie Hanson

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: January 29th – February 5th

Today (1/29/23) – 4th Sunday of Epiphany, Worship 10:30 am

Today (1/29/23) – Following Worship: Annual Meeting

Today (1/29/23) – Gallery Open 12:00-3:00 pm

Monday (1/30/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (1/31/23) Bible Study, 11:00 am –Chapel,
“ZOOM” offered. (Call the office for link.)

Wednesday (2/1/23) – Spiritual Life – 10:30 am, Hospitality Rm.

Saturday (2/4/23) – Confirmation – Pastor Sue's, 9:00-11:00 am

Sunday (2/5/23) –Sunday School Breakfast – 8:30 am
Classes: 9:00 am / Adult Forum: 9:00 am - Gallery

Sunday (2/5/23) –5th Sunday of Epiphany, Worship 10:30 am

Sunday (2/5/23) – Following Worship: Finance – Office,
Internship - Chapel

Sunday (2/5/23) – Gallery Open 12:00-3:00 pm

Annual Meeting, T O D A Y
– following Worship

Stay for this Important Event.

(Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Narthex.)

**Lunch will be provided by the Membership Committee
following the meeting*

*Altar Flowers are dedicated
To all God's people – by Michelle & Elizabeth Fritzo*



Gallery News:

The Gallery is showcasing
"Say Grace" by David Berkner

Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

The Gallery is always looking for volunteers.
Please contact Charlie Hanson or
Rhemmy Golab if interested.

*Thank you Jim Heck for sharing your
Special Music with us today.*

Some parts of worship are from SundaysandSeasons.com ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies, Annual License #SAS003368.

Permission to reprint/stream the following hymns has been obtained from OneLicense, license #A722086. All rights reserved.

1. "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" (ELW #717, Text: Jane Parker Huber © 1984, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.)
2. "O God, Whose Word Well-Planted" (ACS #975, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle; Music: Stephen P. Folkemer; Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress.)
3. "One Bread, One Body" (ELW #496, Text & Music John B. Foley © 1978, SJ and OCP Publications.)
4. "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" (ELW #492, Text & Music: Jeremy Young © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.)
5. "To Be Your Presence" (ELW #546, Text: Delores Dufner © 2000 GIA Publications.)

Permission to stream "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (From "Hymns of Praise" arr. Stan Pethel © 2016 Choristers Guild) has been obtained from CCLI, streaming license #21157579. All rights reserved.

Remaining music is from the public domain.

We are a Praying Church !

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

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.)

