

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

January 28th, 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

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.

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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 *"Song of Thankfulness"* arr. J.Madow
(Based on "Salzburg")

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

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

God, our rock, and refuge,

C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 310 *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

*Greeting

- page 203

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 203

*Canticle of Praise

“Glory to God” (verse 1)

- page 204

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

Children’s Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

**⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your
covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise
endures forever.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are

all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia . . .”

- page 205

*** Gospel**

Mark 1:21-28

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to

destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day —**

ELW #665 ***“Rise, Shine, You People!”***

***Apostles Creed**

C: 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. Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” (ELW #871)
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW #465 *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 206

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 207

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

***Lord's Prayer** - page 208

***Lamb of God** - page 208

***Invitation to Communion**

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 # 617 ***"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"***

ELW # 614 ***"There Is a Balm in Gilead"***

ELW # 434 ***"Jesus Shall Reign"***

***Table Blessing**

***Post Communion Hymn**

ELW #313 ***"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"***.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✝ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 546 *“To Be Your Presence”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Panama Crozier / Connie Garr

Reader – Lynn Kutch

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – Dave Faulkner

This Week at St. John's: January 28th – February 4th

Today (1/28/24) – 4th Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

Today (1/28/24) – Following Worship: Congregational Meeting
Congregational Lunch

Monday (1/29/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (1/30/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Sunday (2/4/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

Sunday (2/4/24) – Fifth Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

Sunday (2/4/24) – Following Worship: Finance

Sunday (2/4/24) – Gallery Opening Reception, 12:00-3:00 pm

Attendance: 55

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,800.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$5,141.00

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Fritzie, Sandy, Pam, James, Kara, Christine, Pat, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Donald, Jim, Betty, Terry, Madelyn, Ken, Sarah, Louise, Tony, Caitlin, Arlene, and Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .

TODAY !!!
~ Annual Congregational Meeting ~

January 28, 2024 – Following Worship

**Membership will be sponsoring a light lunch following the meeting. Join Us.*

***Volunteers are also needed to help in the kitchen, and with clean-up. Please say “Yes” when asked ! ***

“SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY - BRING IN YOUR SOUP CANS . . .

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING:

CANNED SOUP AND SOUP BEANS FOR DONATION

COLLECTION DATES: FEBRUARY 4TH \$ FEBRUARY 11TH



Winter is Here . . .

In the case of inclement weather, please check your e-mails, church website, and WFMZ Stormcenter – Channel 69 News for information on the church closing. If you did not receive an e-mail this past week regarding the recent “Closing for Snow”, please send a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list.

Admin@stjohnseaston.org

The Gallery at St. John’s . . .

~ Artist Michael Palladino ~ Featuring—“Local Nature”

February 4th—March 10th

Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 12:00—3:00 pm

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE WHERE NEEDED MOST

[ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster)

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Lutheran Disaster Response relies upon strong partnerships with global companion churches, ELCA synods and Lutheran

social service organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Where needed most" on

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