

Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Confirmation
Sunday*

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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.

- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*
(Tune by Henry Purcell, 17th c.)

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 456 *“Baptized in Water”*

Please follow along in your hymnals as the service continues with Setting 4 on page 147.

*Greeting - page 147

*Kyrie - page 147

*Canticle of Praise *“This is the Feast . . .”* - page 149

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

**¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** *"Alleluia . . ."* - page 151

*** Gospel** **John 14:1-14**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has

seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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 #389 “*Chris is Alive! Let Christians Sing*”

Affirmation of Baptism

Confirmation

(Presented today for Confirmation and public affirmation of their baptism are Abigail Cressman, Jordyn Ruggles, & Margaret Weber.)

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmand Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmand Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmand Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

(Congregation may join in responding . . .)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Affirmation

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

(Each Confirmand responds . . .)

Confirmand Response: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

(Confirmands please kneel.)

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in (*Abigail, Jordyn, Margaret*) the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering and bring her to everlasting life.

C: Amen

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

(Congratulations Confirmands . . .)

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. God of life, strengthen the church to proclaim the gospel always. Bless all your people and give them the strength to spread the ministry of your church to the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, lush fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick 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: God of all good gifts, you gathered these confirmands into your arms and blessed them. Walk with them in life and keep their path clear. You know where the water is deep, keep them from danger. Guide their feet as they run the race of faith. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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 to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory

“Touch That Soothes and Heals”

by M.L.Bringler & G. DeMey (ACS #939)
Sung by Wittenberg Choir; James Heck, violin

***Presentation of Gifts**

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving**

- page 152

*** Preface**

(Leader continues . . .)

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

- page 153

***Communion Form**

(Leader continues . . .)

***Lord's Prayer**

- page 154

***Lamb of God**

- 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.*

**When ushered, please proceed to the front to receive communion.
and remain at the front until 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 Hymns

ELW #483 ***"Here Is Bread"***

ELW #485 ***"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"***

ELW #477 ***"I Received the Living God"***

***Post Communion Canticle** *"Now Lord . . ."* - page 113

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

*Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 545 *“Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

1. “Baptized in Water” (ELW #456, Text: Michael Saward © 1982 by Jubilate Hymns (admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Gaelic tune; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.)
2. “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” (ELW #389, Text: Brian Wren © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company; Music: T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.)
3. “Touch That Soothes and Heals” (ACS #939, Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publ. Inc.; Music: Gregg DeMey © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources.)
4. “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (ELW #184, Music: Ronald Nelson; Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
5. “Here Is Bread” (ELW #483, Text & Music: Graham Kendrick © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere (ASCAP).)
6. “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” (ELW #484, Text: Omer Westendorf; Music: Robert Kreutz; Text & music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publ.)

Remaining music is from the public domain.

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Roger Ruggles

Ushers – John & Helen Border

Reader – Chuck Lewis

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: May 7th – May 14th

Today (5/7/23) – Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am
Confirmation Sunday!

Today (5/7/23) – Meetings Following Worship: -Intern (Chapel)
Finance (Office)

Today (5/7/23) – Art Gallery Open, 12-2:00 pm

Monday (5/8/23) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Monday (5/8/23) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Tuesday (5/9/23) Bible Study, 1:30 pm – Hosp. Rm.

Thursday (5/11/23) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am - Hosp. Rm.

Friday (5/12/23) – Newsletter Deadline

Saturday (5/13/23) – Church Workday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm

Saturday (5/13/23) – Clothing Closet - Clothes Sorting, 11:00 am

Sunday (5/14/23) — Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am,
Classes: 9:00 am

Sunday (5/14/23) – Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am
-Mother's Day

Sunday (5/14/23) –Meetings Following Worship:
-Membership (Chapel)

Sunday (5/14/23) –Art Gallery Open 12-2:00 pm

Attendance: 64

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$2,233.00 |
| Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$2,234.00 |
| Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$42,117.00 |

(These totals do not include special envelopes.)

Prayer Concerns: Bonita, Richard, Chuck, Deanna, Earl, Sandy, Christopher, Kenny, Mary, Jack, David, Terry, Jan, Pamela, and our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Duane Olson and Patricia Thompson

Altar Flowers today are dedicated to the Confirmation Students for the hard work they put into their studies this year.



Thank you – Jim Heck, for sharing your special music today . . .

Pick up a Geranium Order Form in the Narthex - Help make the Sanctuary RED for Pentecost !