

Welcome to Worship

at

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



February 18, 2024

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button  
**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.

~

**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

*“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”*

by Kornelius Dretzel

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another . . .

Holy God,

**C: We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 326 *“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”*

## **\*Greeting**

- page 138

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 138

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

**Genesis 9:8-17**

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

**Psalms 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the  
day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## *Second Reading*

## **1 Peter 3:18-22**

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the  
unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in  
the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and  
made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times

did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**      *“Return to the Lord”*      - page 142

**\* Gospel**

**Mark 1:9-15**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button*

*\*Hymn of the Day —*

ELW #517 *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

*\*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: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people.

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

*After each petition, please join in singing:*

### ELW #752 *"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

*Join in singing:*

**ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”**

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . .*

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

*Join in singing:*

**ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”**

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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 “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

by Marty Haugen  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

## \*Offertory Hymn

ELW #185 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

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 to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving** - page 144

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

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 144

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

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 145

**\*Lamb of God** - page 146

**\*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 # 304 *“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”*

ELW # 325 *“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

ELW # 624 *“Jesus, Still Lead On”*

## \*Table Blessing

## \*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #209 *“Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life”*

Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -

va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless-ed be God, the source of all

life, the word of sal - va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life" (ELW #209). It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line and ends with a double bar line.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Announcements**

## **\*Blessing**

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

ACS# 1016 *"Cast Out, O Christ"*

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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2. "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW #752, Text & Music: Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.)
3. "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" (ELW #334, Text & Music: Marty Haugen © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.)
4. "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" (ELW #304, Text: F. Bland Tucker © 1985 The Church Pension Fund.)
5. "Cast Out, O Christ" (ACS #1016, Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc; Arr: Theodore A. Beck © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.)

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## **Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman

**Reader** – Charlie Hanson

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

### **This Week at St. John's: February 18<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (2/18/24) – First Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

**Today** (2/18/24) – Following Worship: Property – Office  
Spiritual Life - Chapel

**Today** (2/18/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Monday** (2/19/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (2/13/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (2/21/24) – Mid-Week Lenten Worship  
– St. Paul's Third – 2561 Newburg Road, 6:00 pm

**Friday** (2/23/24) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am

**Sunday** (2/25/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (2/25/24) – Second Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (2/25/24) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

**Sunday** (2/25/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 57**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,303.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$8783.00





*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 sent a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list. [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)*



## **The Gallery at St. John's . . .**

**~ Artist Michael Palladino ~ Featuring—"Local Nature"**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>—March 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

***Prayer Concerns:*** Chuck, Sandy, Pam, James,  
Kara, Christine, Matt, Carolyn, Julia, Charles,  
Panama, Sienna, Mildred, Donald, Jim, Betty,  
Terry, Madelyn, Ken, Sarah, Doris, Sylvia, Tony,  
Caitlin, Mike, Arlene,  
and Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .



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*There many dates open to sponsor  
Altar Flowers . . .*

*Please pick a date meaningful to you, \$30.00 . . .*



*Mark your Calendars and  
Join the Easton Community Lutheran  
Churches for . . .*

## *Lenten Midweek Services*

*Light Meal – 6:00 pm*

*Worship – 7:00 pm*

† *Wednesday—February 21st*

*@ St. Paul's Third*    2561 Newburg Rd, Easton, PA 18045

† *Wednesday—February 28th*

*@ St. John's*    330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

**{ Volunteers will be needed to donate: Soup, Bread, and Dessert . . . }**  
***See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.***

† *Wednesday—March 6th*

*@ Arndt's Lutheran Church*    1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA 18040

† *Wednesday—March 13th*

*@ United Fellowship*    2115 Washington Blvd. – Easton, PA

† *Wednesday—March 20th*

*@ St. Andrew's*    3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA 18045

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE WHERE NEEDED MOST

[ELCA.org/disaster](http://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.

.....  
Yes, I want to help!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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  
your check's memo line.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# EASTER

## Flowers



### Order Form

*Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with  
perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of  
incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings  
to the skies.*

*Stately lilies pure and white  
Flooding darkness  
with their light,  
Bloom and sorrow  
drifts away,  
On this holy hallow'd day.  
Easter Lilies bending low  
in the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message  
from the sod  
To the heavenly towers  
of God.*

*Help beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning  
with your dedications . . .*

Order Deadline: March 10th, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(\$9.00 / Plant)