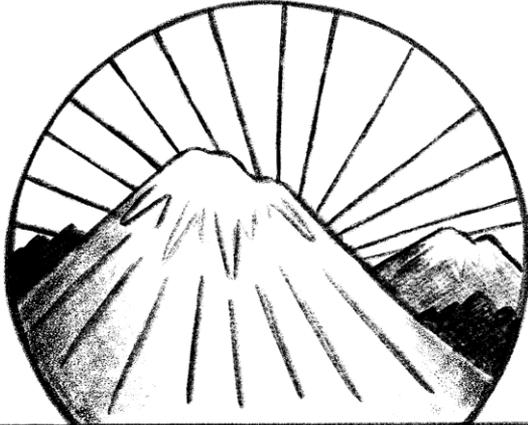


Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Second Sunday in Lent*

March 5, 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](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)

[www.stjohnseaston.org](http://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.

**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** *“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”*

(Tune: “Old 124th”)

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Holy God,

**C: We confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Gathering Hymn

ELW #448 *“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”*

## \*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.**

## \*Kyrie

*page 138*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

A: Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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**

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

## Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## Second Reading

## Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned

as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**                      (*use hymnal*)                      *page 142*

*“Return to the Lord . . .”*

**\*Telling of the Gospel / Children’s Chat**                      - **John 3:1-17**

**Sermon:**                      *“The Pew”*

- Rev. Susan D. Ruggles & Vicar Vanessa Storlie

**\*Hymn of the Day –**

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

## \*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. (*Brief Silence*)

C: *After each intercession prayer ends, in "Merciful God", please respond with singing:*

### Hymn # 752 "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"



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.

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..)*

**Offertory**    “*God Is Holding Your Life*” (Psalm 121)  
Text by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir and Congregation

## \***Presentation of Gifts**

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

\***Offertory Hymn**                      *(following page, sing English lines.)*

ELW #642 “Ubi caritas et amor” (Where True Charity and Love)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Ubi caritas et amor". It consists of four staves. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves. The first system of lyrics is: "U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, / Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,". The second system of lyrics is: "u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. / God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there." The word "i" in the second system has a triplet of three eighth notes above it, and "dwell" has a triplet of three eighth notes below it. The score ends with a double bar line.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.  
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: Amen

**\*Great Thanksgiving** (use hymnal) page 144

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

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

*(use hymnal)*

*page 144*

**\*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**

*(use hymnal)*

*page 146*

**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 #481 *“Come to the Table”*

ELW #482 *“I Come with Joy”*

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

## \*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.



## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **\*Blessing**

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW #796 *“How Firm a Foundation”*

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Quietly depart . . .)*

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

**Worship Assistant** – Chris Orem

**Ushers** – Lois Anne Calloway / Panama Crozier

**Reader** – Chuck Lewis

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Dee Caul

**This Week at St. John's: March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (3/5/23) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Worship 10:30 am

**Today** (3/5/23) – Meetings following Worship: Finance (Office)

**Today** (3/5/23) – Gallery Open 12:00-3:00 pm

**Monday** (3/6/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (3/7/23) Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hosp. Rm.  
“ZOOM” offered. (Call the office for link.)

**Wednesday** (3/8/23)- Lenten Meal / Worship @ St. Paul's Third,  
6:00 pm / 7:00 pm

**Thursday** (3/9/23) – Prayer Group, 9:30 am

**Saturday** (3/11/23) – Vicar Clothing Closet clothes sorting,  
11:00 am, Social Hall

**Saturday** (3/11/23) – Vicar Ice Cream & Conversation, 1:00 pm  
Bank Street Creamery

**Sunday** (3/12/23) – Sunday School Breakfast – 8:30 am  
Classes: 9:00 am / Adult Forum: 9:00 am - Gallery

**Sunday** (3/12/23) – Third Sunday of Lent, Worship 10:30 am

**Sunday** (3/12/23) – Meetings following Worship:  
Membership – Chapel  
Internship - Office

**Attendance: 72**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,732.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$18,980.00

*(These totals do not include special envelopes.)*

*Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God . . .*



**From the Vicar:**

**Vicar's Clothing Closet**

Clothes Sorting

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am

In the Social Hall

**Ice Cream & Conversation with the Vicar**

Bank Street Creamery

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm



From the Gallery:

**Gallery Open: Sundays 12:00 – 3:00 pm**

The show, “Say Grace” is closing on March 12, check it out before it's over.

Call to Artists: “All God's Creatures, Big & Small”

- Submit a Painting, Drawing, Photograph, Ect . . .  
Of Our Furry or Not-So-Furry Friends.

(Pick up your registration form in the Gallery.)

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2. “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” (ELW #326, Text: Sylvia Dunstan © 1991 GIA Pub. Inc.)
3. “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (ELW #752, Text & Music: Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.)
4. “Ubi caritas et amor” (ELW #642, Text: Latin antiphon, 9th c.; Taize Community; tr. With One Voice; Music: Jacques Berthier; Text and music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.)
5. “I Come with Joy” (ELW #482, Text: Brian Wren © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Co.)
6. “Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup” (ELW #492, Text & Music: Jeremy Young; refrain, With One Voice, stanzas based on Ps. 34; Text & music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.)

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# **We are a Praying Church !**

**Prayer Concerns:** Bonita B., Larry, Bonita, Jinny, Marty, Phyllis, Richie, Chuck, Earl, Patty, Renee & Family, Sharon, Steve, Paul, Bill, Lorraine, Danny, Sandy, Amanda, Jack, David, Terry, Tom, and our Homebound Family and Friends.

*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](mailto: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.)**

