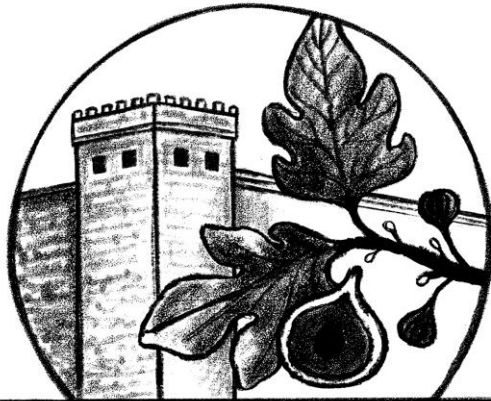


Welcome to Worship

at

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



Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 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

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”

(Tune: “Beach Spring”)

*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 #329 “*As the Sun with Longer Journey*”

*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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the

Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**²Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

**⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**⁶Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture
and the sheep of God’s hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

**⁸“Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my
ways.’**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
They shall never come to my rest.’”

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Return to the Lord . . .”

- page 142, located in the front of the hymnal.

***Telling of the Gospel / Children’s Chat**

- John 4:5-42

Sermon: *“The Pew”*

- Rev. Susan D. Ruggles & Vicar Vanessa Storlie

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW #331 *“As the Deer Runs to the River”*

***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 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

James Heck, violin and Amelia Fink, rainstick

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

(sing English lines.)

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

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in the left hand.

***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**

- page 144, located in the front of the hymnal.

*** Preface**

(Leader continues . . .)

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

- page 144, located in the front of the hymnal.

***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 146, located in the front of the hymnal.

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 #468 *“Around You, O Lord Jesus”*

ELW #469 *“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”*

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

*Post Communion Canticle

- page 113, located in the front of the hymnal.

*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 #543 ***“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”***

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Quietly depart . . .)

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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. “Around You, O Lord Jesus” (ELW #468, Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
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7. “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (ELW #543, Text: Jaroslav Vajda © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Welsh traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams.)

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Jim Heck

Ushers – Lois Anne Calloway / Panama Crozier

Reader – Lynn Kutch

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Dee Caul

This Week at St. John's: March 12th – March 19th

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

Today (3/12/23) –Meetings following Worship:

Intern - Office

Membership - Chapel

Today (3/12/23) – Gallery Open 12:00-3:00 pm (Show Closing)

Today (3/12/23) – Last Day to make reservations for St. Patrick's
Day Parents Night Out.

Monday (3/13/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

Monday (3/13/23) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm - Chapel

Tuesday (3/14/23) Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hosp. Rm.

“ZOOM” offered. (Call the office for link.)

Wednesday (3/15/23)- Lenten Meal / Worship @ St. John's,
6:00 pm / 7:00 pm

Friday (3/17/23) – Newsletter Deadline

Friday (3/17/23) – Parents Night Out, 6:00-9:00 pm

Saturday (3/18/23) – Vicar Clothing Closet Open, 9:00-11:00 pm

Saturday (3/18/23) – Membership Stove Cleaning Day, 10:00 am

Sunday (3/19/23) –Sunday School Breakfast – 8:30 am

Classes: 9:00 am / Adult Forum: 9:00 am - Gallery

Sunday (3/19/23) –Fourth Sunday of Lent, Worship 10:30 am

Sunday (3/19/23) –Meetings following Worship:

Property – Office

Outreach - Chapel

Attendance: 51

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$2,826.00 |
| Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget: | \$2,234.00 |
| Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering: | \$21,806.00 |

(These totals do not include special envelopes.)

*Altar Flowers today are dedicated to the people of
St. John's – May God shower blessings upon you
this Lenten Season.*



From the Gallery:

Gallery Open: Sundays 12:00 – 3:00 pm

The show, “Say Grace” is closing today!

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.)



Volunteers are needed to contribute:

*Soup / Bread / Dessert
to our Mid-Week Lenten Soup
and Worship Series
on March 15th*

*Please see the sign-up sheet
in the Narthex.*

