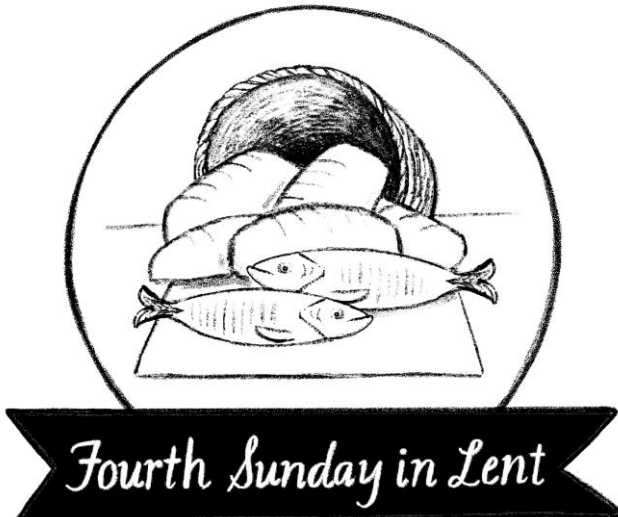


Welcome to Worship

at

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



March 19, 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.

~

**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

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

by William B. Bradbury

### \*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 #843 *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

## \*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

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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Word

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

### First Reading

### 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but

the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsive Reading:**

## **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **Second Reading**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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 9:1-41**

**Sermon:        “*The Pew*”**

- Rev. Susan D. Ruggles & Vicar Vanessa Storlie

**\*Hymn of the Day –**

ELW #453    “*Baptized and Set Free*”

**\*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. (*Brief Silence*)

**C: After each intercession prayer ends, in “*Merciful God*”, please respond with singing:                    (*following page*)**



## 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** “*Lord, Be Our Light*” by Mark Patterson

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

### \*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)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

- 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 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 #466 ***“In the Singing”***

ELW #471 ***“Let Us Break Bread Together”***

ELW #474 ***“Bread of Life from Heaven”***

## **\*Post Communion Canticle**

***“ Now Lord . . . ”***

*- 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 #452 “*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*”

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Quietly depart . . .)*

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- 2. “Baptized and Set Free” (ELW #453, Text & Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 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.; Taizé Community; tr. With One Voice; Music: Jacques Berthier; Text and music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.)*
- 5. “In the Singing” (ELW #466, Text: Shirley Murray; Music: Carlton Young; Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company.)*
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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

**Worship Assistant**– Joyce Petty

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

**Reader** – Laura Genn

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

**This Week at St. John's: March 19<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (3/19/23) – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Worship 10:30 am

**Today** (3/19/23) –Meetings following Worship:

Property - Office

Outreach - Chapel

**Monday** (3/20/23) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (3/21/23) Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hosp. Rm.

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

**Wednesday** (3/22/23)- Lenten Meal / Worship @ UFLC,  
6:00 pm / 7:00 pm

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

**Friday** (3/24/23) – Newsletter Folding, 9:30 am

**Sunday** (3/26/23) –Sunday School Breakfast – 8:30 am

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

**Sunday** (3/26/23) –Fifth Sunday of Lent, Worship 10:30 am

**Sunday** (3/26/23) –Easter Flower Deadline

**Sunday** (3/26/23) –Meetings following Worship:

Rachel's Circle



*Altar Flowers today are dedicated in  
Thanksgiving to God for God's steadfast  
love by Pastor & Sylvia Orem*

**Attendance: 61**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,592.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$24,398.00

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

*From the Gallery: The Art Gallery will be closed until April 16<sup>th</sup>,  
the Opening of All God's Creatures . . .*

**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.  
Art drop off, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10-12:00 pm)*



**Arndt's Lutheran Church** will be hosting a Cluster Choir for the Lenten Service that will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

If you want to be a part of this performance, you can text me or leave me a message at 610-248-6910. Message can also be sent to my email at [mlksp2000@gmail.com](mailto:mlksp2000@gmail.com)

In Christ, Mark (Jonkman) St. Andrew's Director of Music



***Last Day for Easter Flower Orders – March 26<sup>th</sup>  
Get your dedications in to the office today!!!***

**SAVE THE DATE – PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, (SPONSORED BY  
THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE)- FOLLOWING WORSHIP,  
DESSERT DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

# **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, Sean, Greg, 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.)**

