

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

a reconciling in Christ congregation



## *Mauudy Thursday Worship*

April 1st, 2021

7:00 pm

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

Phone: 610-258-6119

E-mail : 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.

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## *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.

*Maundy Thursday* . . . This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. We remove the linens, paraments, and ornaments from the worship space tonight to symbolize the humiliation Jesus suffered. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

# Gathering

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

## ***Announcements***

### ***\*Confession and Forgiveness***

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, as we enter into Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with God and with one another.

*(Silence for reflection . . .)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

### ***\*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.**

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

A: Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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***

**Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

1The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 11This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. 12For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***Second Reading***

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

23For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This

is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* *Gospel***

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter.

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

1Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” 9Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” 10Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” 11For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” 12After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know

what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.” 31b“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon:* The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

*Hymn of the Day* - ELW # 359

*“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

- 1 Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.**
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.**

- 3 Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.**
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.**
- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.**

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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**\* *Prayers of Intercession***

*(Note: After each Intercessory prayer ends in “let us pray”, please respond with quietly singing the hymn below.)*

*A: (Brief silence . . . the prayer is read.)*

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

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

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**\* *The Sharing of the Peace***

P: Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you**

*Meal*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\**Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\**Preface***      (*Pastor continues . . .*)

P: It is indeed right, and salutary that we should at all time and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Re-new our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the  
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

***Communion Form***

*(Pastor continues ... )*

***\*Lord's Prayer***

**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.**

***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.*

*\*Please remain seated, communion  
will be offered to you in your pew.  
(Please ask for gluten free or grape juice if necessary.)*

***Communion Music***

*"Hymn Medley"*

## **\* *Prayer after Communion***

A: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with your saving power of your suffering, death and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ***A reading of Psalm 22 & Stripping of the Altar***

*(During the reading, you are invited to kneel /sit  
and contemplate the psalm.)*

1My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.

3Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4In you our ancestors trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

5To you they cried, and were saved;  
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

6But I am a worm, and not human;  
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

7All who see me mock at me;  
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

8"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver —  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

9Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

10On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

11 Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.

12 Many bulls encircle me,  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
13 they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;  
15 my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled;

17 I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away!

O my help, come quickly to my aid!

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

25From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

26The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

28For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

29To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

30Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the LORD,

31and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

*After the altar is stripped, please depart in silence.*

*The service does not end here, but continues Good Friday . . .*



# Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

**Worship Assistant** – Jim Heck  
**Ushers** – Roger Ruggles / Michelle Fritzo  
**Reader** – Jim Heck  
**Altar Guild** – Lois Anne Calloway / Carolyn Moyer

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## ***We're A Praying Church!***

**Prayer Concerns:** Arlene, Gloria, Marge Chuck, Anthony, Kathy, Deanna, Carmen, Jim, Karen, Carol & David, Bob, Dave, Serena and Baby, Don, Jane, Walter, Kim, Eva, Alex, Leslie, Terry, Brad, Andrea, Barbara, Jean, Gail, Chris, Ron, and Carol & Mark

*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.*



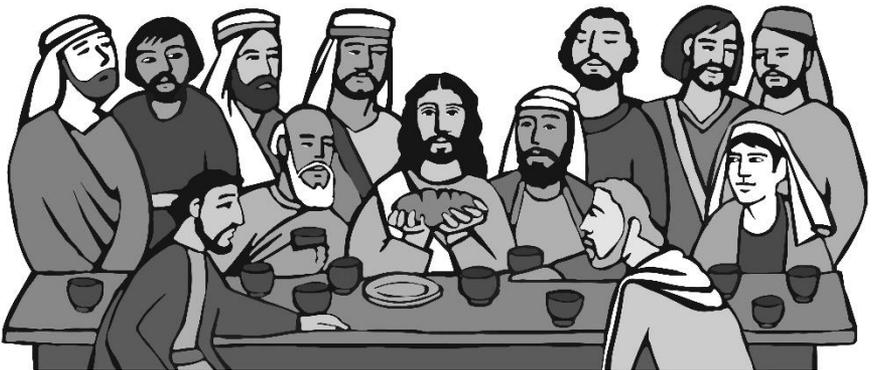
(Requested will be removed at the beginning of the following month unless notified.)

*Holy Week Schedule :*

*Good Friday* – April 2, 7:00 pm

*Youth Easter Egg Hunt* – April 3, 10:00 am

*Easter Sunday* – April 4, 10:30 am



“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

Luke 22:15, NIV