

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
at
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
a reconciling in Christ congregation



Palm Sunday

March 28th, 2021

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles
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.

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

(Tune: “Ellacombe” from “Gesangbuch”, Wittenberg, 1784)

****Acclamation***

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest.

****Prayers of Confession***

P: O Lord, who on this day we mark when you entered the rebellious city that later rejected you:
we confess that our wills are as rebellious as the people at Jerusalem,
that our faith is often more show than substance,
that our hearts are in need of cleansing.

Have mercy on us, son of David, Savior of our lives.

Help us to lay at your feet
all that we have and all that we are,
trusting you to forgive what is sinful,
to heal what is broken,
to welcome our praises,
and to receive us as your own.

Let the people say, Amen.

C: Amen

**Hymn of Praise (Canticle) – Spoken*

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

P: Lord God heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

P: For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

All: Amen.

**Prayer of the Day*

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection.

Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel**

Mark 11:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to Mark the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

(brief silence after sermon for reflection.)

***Hymn of the Day - ELW # 345 “Jesus, I will Ponder Now”**

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
on your holy passion;
let your Spirit now endow
me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
may the image cherish
of your suff'ring, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.**
- 2 Make me see your great distress,
anguish, and affliction,
bonds and blows and wretchedness
and your crucifixion;
make me see how scourge and rod,
spear and nails, did wound you,
how you died for those, O God,
who with thorns had crowned you.**
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
make me see your passion,
but its cause to me make known
and its termination.
For I also and my sin
wrought your deep affliction;
this the shameful cause has been
of your crucifixion.**
- 4 Let me view your pain and loss
with repentant grieving,
nor prepare again your cross
by unholy living.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav'n above
sing your praise forever.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

****Nicene Creed***

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**** Prayers of Intercession***

A: Let us pray. For all Christians who today raise palms and hear the story of your passion; for humility as we confess you as Lord today. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore the lost and endangered. Create new possibilities and change, grant relief and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who feel condemned. Defend those who feel put down by society. Console and strengthen those who are weak. Accompany all who suffer including . . . Those we mention on our prayer list, and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

A: Inspire us to have a spirit of welcome as our congregation enters this Holy Week. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** *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; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might be a tree overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending 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.

Sending

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

****Blessing of the Palms***

P: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*(When exiting the sanctuary please take a palm
and remember we are children of God.)*

****Dismissal***

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen

Postlude



Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Joyce Petty

Ushers – Barb Horinko / Jacob Ruggles

Reader – Cindy Black

Altar Guild – Sylvia Orem / Carolyn Moyer

Mark your Calendars:

Today – Worship, 10:30 am, Sanctuary

3/31/21 - Lenten Dialogue, Chapel or “Zoom” – 6:00 pm

4/1/21 – Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

4/2/21 – Good Friday Worship, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

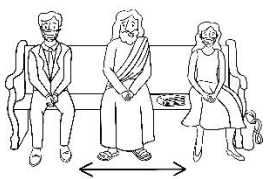
4/3/21– Youth Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

4/4/21 – Easter Sunday Worship, Sanctuary

4/5/21 – Church Office Closed for Easter Monday

Altar Flowers are presented in honor of our son, Kevin Lynn, for his 60th birthday by Peggy & Tony Pitt





Attention Large Families (4 or more) . . . Make your Easter **RESERVATIONS** today! Call the church office to reserve a pew. This will ensure we are able to fit the maximum number of people in the Sanctuary on Easter morning.

There is still time!!

WANTED: Filled Plastic Easter Eggs

(Eggs with candy or small prizes)

For our Youth Egg Hunt.



Deadline: March 31st
(Drop them off at the church office.)

With Great Joy, we would like to announce that Vicar Matthew Kayhart has accepted a call at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, Pennsylvania.

The synod has set an ordination date of Saturday, April 10th, in the evening (time to be determined).

The synod will live stream the event for anyone interested in attending virtually.

A link will be provided when it becomes available.

Let us keep Vicar Matt in our prayers.





*HOLY WEEK SERVICES WILL BE “LIVE STREAMED”
FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY.*

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.STJOHNSEASTON.ORG

FOR LINKS, & DOWNLOADABLE BULLETINS...

AVAILABLE FOR LIVE STREAM VIEWING:

PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

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