

Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

February 11, 2024

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**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.

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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.

### **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 . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book  
WOV – With One Voice  
ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

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

## Welcome

**Prelude**     *“Oh, Praise the Living Christ”*     arr. Wayne Wold

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock, and refuge,

**C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 631 “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*”

## \*Greeting

- page 203

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 203

## \*Canticle of Praise

“*Glory to God*” (verse 1)

- page 204

## \*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

## Children’s Chat

# Word

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

## First Reading

## 2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

<sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

<sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The

chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsive Reading:*

**Psalm 50:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with  
sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

## Second Reading

## 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**      *"Alleluia . . ."*      - page 205

**\* Gospel**      **Mark 9:2-9**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they

looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button*

*\*Hymn of the Day —*

ELW #315 *“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!”*

*\*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. We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .*). Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you**

# Meal

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

*(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)*

**Offertory** “*Dazzling Presence on the Mountain*” (ACS 917)  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

**\*Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

**\*Offertory Hymn**

ELW #465 “*As the Grains of Wheat*”

**\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving** - page 206

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

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 207

**\*Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 208

**\*Lamb of God** - page 208

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**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.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

## **Communion Hymns**

ELW # 715 ***“Christ, Be Our Light”***

ELW # 838 ***“Beautiful Savior”***

ELW # 853 ***“When Morning Gilds the Skies”***

**\*Table Blessing**

## **\*Post Communion Hymn**

ELW #313 *"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"*.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Announcements**

## **\*Blessing**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW # 318 *"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"*

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**    *"We Are Marching in the Light of God"*  
                  (*"Siyahamba" - So. African trad.*)

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

**Worship Assistant**– Joyce Petty

**Ushers** – Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman

**Reader** – Wayne Docker

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – Steve Remel

**This Week at St. John's: February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (2/11/24) – Transfiguration of Our Lord, 10:30 am

**Today** (2/11/24) – Following Worship: Membership Mtg. – Office

**Today** (2/11/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Monday** (2/12/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (2/12/24) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

**Tuesday** (2/13/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (2/14/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am, Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (2/14/24) – Ash Wednesday Mid-Day  
Worship, 12:00 pm, - Chapel

**Wednesday** (2/14/24) – Ash Wednesday Evening  
Worship, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

**Friday** (2/16/24) – Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday** (2/18/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (2/18/24) – First Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (2/18/24) – Following Worship: Property – Office,  
Spiritual Life - Chapel

**Sunday** (2/18/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 59**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,417.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$8783.00



*Winter is Here . . .*

*In the case of inclement weather, please check your e-mails, church website, and WFMZ Stormcenter - Channel 69 News for information on the church closing. If you did not receive an e-mail this past week regarding the recent "Closing for Snow", please sent a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list. [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)*



**The Gallery at St. John's . . .**

**~ Artist Michael Palladino ~ Featuring—"Local Nature"**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>—March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 12:00—3:00 pm**

**Prayer Concerns:** Chuck, Sandy, Pam, James,  
Kara, Christine, Pat, Carolyn, Julia, Charles,  
Panama, Sienna, Mildred, Donald, Jim, Betty,  
Terry, Madelyn, Ken, Sarah, Louise, Tony,  
Caitlin, Ruth, Arlene, and  
Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .





Wednesday, February 14th, 2024



Ash  
Wednesday

Please  
Join  
us . . .

- Mid-Day Worship in the Chapel  
*(Service of the Word)*

12:00 noon

~

- Traditional Evening Worship  
in the Sanctuary with Communion

7:00 pm

*"From Dust You Came,  
And To Dust You Shall Return."*

*Genesis 3:19*



Mark your Calendars and  
Join the Easton Community Lutheran  
Churches for . . .

*Lenten Midweek  
Services*

*Light Meal – 6:00 pm*

*Worship – 7:00 pm*

† *Wednesday—February 21st*

*@ St. Paul's Third* 2561 Newburg Rd, Easton, PA 18045

† *Wednesday—February 28th*

*@ St. John's* 330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

{ *Volunteers will be needed to donate: Soup, Bread, and Dessert . . .* }  
*See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.*

† *Wednesday—March 6th*

*@ Arndt's Lutheran Church* 1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA 18040

† *Wednesday—March 13th*

*@ United Fellowship* 2115 Washington Blvd. – Easton, PA

† *Wednesday—March 20th*

*@ St. Andrew's* 3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA 18045

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE  
**WHERE NEEDED MOST**

[ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster)

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Lutheran Disaster Response relies upon strong partnerships with global companion churches, ELCA synods and Lutheran

social service organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

.....  
Yes, I want to help!

Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or make your check out to  
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,**  
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Where needed most" on  
your check's memo line.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# EASTER

## Flower



### Order Form

*Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings to the skies.  
Stately lilies pure and white  
Flooding darkness with their light,  
Bloom and sorrow drifts away,  
On this holy hallow'd day.  
Easter Lilies bending low  
in the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message from the sod*

*Help beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning  
with your dedications . . .*

Order Deadline: March 10th, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Honor / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(\$9.00 / Plant)