

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 17th, 2023

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

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.
- 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 “*O Christ, Our Hope*” by Nikolaus Herman
 (arr. of 16th c. tune)

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, +Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,

C: You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. Led us back to you and set us on the right path, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are always and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW #864 *“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”*

Please follow along in your hymnals as the service continues with Setting 4 on page 147.

*Greeting

- page 147

*Kyrie

- page 147

*Canticle of Praise

“This is the Feast . . .”

- page 149

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Childrens Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in ^lsteadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for ^lthose who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia . . .”

- page 151

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW #716 *“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”*

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. We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially, for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Remember us as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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 to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory *“Where Charity & Love Prevail”* arr. J. Madow

***Presentation of Gifts**

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, so that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 153

***Communion Form** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Lord's Prayer** - page 154

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***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 Hymn's

ELW #472 ***“Eat This Bread”***

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

ELW #468 ***“Around You O Lord Jesus”***

***Table Blessing**

***Post Communion Canticle** *“Now Lord . . .” - page 113*

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW #545 *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Improvisations on *“Beatus vir”*
(ELW #716 tune)

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .
Worship Assistant– Chris Orem
Ushers – Barbara Horinko / Panama Crozier
Reader – Bob Black
Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: September 17th – September 24th

Today (9/17/23) – 17th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship, 10:30 am

Today (9/17/23) – Pastor Button Reception – Gallery,
following worship.

Today (9/17/23) – Following Worship:
Membership / Outreach Mtgs.

Today (9/17/23) – “Plaid Show” Gallery, 12:00-2:00 pm

Monday (9/18/23) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm, Sanctuary

Monday (9/18/23) – Bible Study, 5:30 pm, Hospitality Room

Sunday (9/24/23) – 18th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship 10:30 am

Sunday (9/24/23) – Following Worship: Rachel’s Circle
Property - Office

*Altar Flowers are dedicated today to the
Glory of God . . .*



Attendance: 51

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,513.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$84,691.00

(These totals do not include special envelopes.)

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Deanna, Marcia, Sandy, Adam, James, Christopher, Kara, Colleen, David, Renee and Family, Paul, Danny, Lorraine, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Eleanor, Madelyn, Harper, Terry, Arlene, Tom, Ryan, and Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .

Please join us following worship TODAY, in Welcoming Pastor Mike Button, a light reception will be held in the gallery following worship.

... Sunday School has Resumed ...



Sunday school children are welcomed back at 9:00 am

upstairs for classes and fun!

Adult Forum will meet in the Gallery . . .

Worship liturgy and song usage in this service has been obtained with a subscription to sundaysandseasons.com © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies, Annual License #SAS003368. All rights reserved.

Permission to stream the following music has been obtained from OneLicense, license #A722086. All rights reserved.

1. "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" (ELW #716, Text: Olive Wise Spannaus © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; arr. Concordia Publ. House.)
2. "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" (ELW #184, Music: Ronald Nelson; Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
3. "Eat This Bread" (ELW #472, Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier; Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc.)
4. "Bread of Life from Heaven" (ELW #474, Text: Susan Briehl; Music: Argentine trad., refrain Marty Haugen; Text and music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.)
5. "'Around You, O Lord Jesus" (ELW #468, Text: Frans Mikael Franzen; tr composite © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: H. Thomisson, 1569.)

Remaining music is from the public domain.