

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



**Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

10:30 am

**Guest Leader: Steve Moyer**

**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 . . .

### **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.*

## Announcements

### Prelude

“Hope of The World”

(from “Trente quatre pseumes de David”, Geneva 1551)

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen**

L: 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.**

L: 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 # 655 “*Son of God, Eternal Savior*”

*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 God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

# Word

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

## First Reading

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your  
account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words  
became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by  
your name,

O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of  
merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat  
alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be  
healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you  
back, and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you  
shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I  
am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem  
you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

Psalm 26:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## Second Reading

## Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*"Alleluia . . ."*

*- page 151*

## \* Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily** - *Steven Moyer*



## \*Hymn of the Day –

ELW #626 “*By Gracious Powers*”

## *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. God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of the church. Draw in seekers to you, place messages of hope and healing in our mouths, and open us to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of steadfast love, renew the earth and let the lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Let us pray for all your people including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Merciful God

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for new ventures, new school years, and make change easy. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard our families and community. Hear us, O 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

L: 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** “O Lord, You Are My Song” by J. Dawlorn

## \*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

**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 #470 *“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”*

ELW #466 *“In the Singing”*

ELW #477 *“I Received the Living God”*

**\*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.*

### **\*Blessing**

L: 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

ACS #1000 *“God’s Work, Our Hands”*

## \*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Worship liturgy and song usage in this service has been obtained with a subscription to [sundaysandseasons.com](http://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. “By Gracious Powers” (ELW #626, Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, tr. Fred Pratt Green © 1974 Hope Publishing Company; Music: Robert Buckley Farlee © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 2. “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (ELW #184, Music: Ronald Nelson; Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 3. “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” (ELW #470, Text: Percy Dearmer, from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931; Music: Harold Friedell © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.)*
- 4. “In the Singing” (ELW #466, Text: Shirley Murray; Music: Carlton R. Young; Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company.)*
- 5. “God’s Work, Our Hands” (ACS #1000, Text: Wayne Wold © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: David N. Johnson © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)*

**Worship Assistant** – Chris Orem  
**Ushers** – Barbara Horinko / Panama Crozier  
**Reader** – Mike Thompson  
**Altar Guild** – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

**This Week at St. John's: September 3<sup>rd</sup> – September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (9/3/23) – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship, 10:30 am

**Today** (9/3/23) – Meetings following Worship:  
 Finance – Office

**Monday** (9/4/23) – Labor Day, Office Closed

**Wednesday** (9/5/23) – Spiritual Life – 10:30 am, Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (9/5/23) – Council Reports Due

**Friday** (9/8/23) – Gallery Art Drop-Off, 10:00-12:00 pm

**Sunday** (9/10/23) – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship 10:30 am  
*“Interim Pastor Mike Button Begins . . .”*

*Altar Flowers today are sponsored in loving memory of  
 my Dad James Nuttall and my sister Cathy on their  
 birthdays by Barbara & Terry Horinko.*



**Attendance: 111**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$3,312.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$81,552.00

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

*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Deanna, Sandy, Adam, James, Christopher, Kara, Colleen, David, Renee and Family, Paul, Danny, Lorraine, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Eleanor, Harper, Terry, Arlene, Tom, Ryan, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Walter Kichline, Marian Simmons, and Julian Reed



PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE COLLECTING CANDY FOR THE MIRACLE LEAGUE HALLOWEEN. THEY ARE NOT IN NEED THIS YEAR. SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

The Gallery at St John's

Our famous Plaid show resumes . . .  
Opening, September 10th—October 15th  
Art Drop off— September 8th, 10-12:00 pm

(Registration forms can be picked up in the Gallery or on the church website.)

*. . . Sunday School Resumes . . .*

September 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday school children are welcomed back at 9:00 am upstairs for classes and fun!

Adult Forum will meet in the Gallery . . .

*Check your newsletters for new dates and times for Bible Study and Prayer Group. Come Join Us !!!*