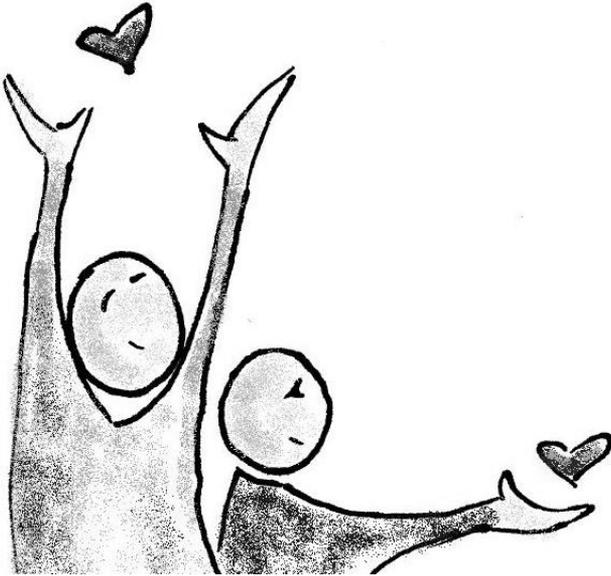


WELCOME TO WORSHIP...

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles
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, **YOU ARE WELCOME** to participate in Communion. There are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

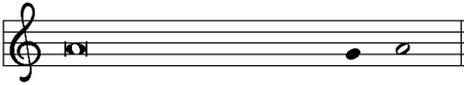
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.

***Kyrie** *(Congregation please quietly sing parts in bold.)*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



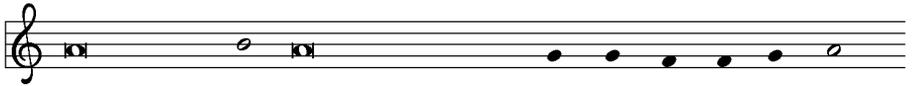
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise *(congregation sing quietly after 1st line)*

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

(Spoken responsively)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel

John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called

you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love 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 # 836 *(please sing quietly)*

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.**

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

**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. Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church, plant your word in the hearts of all. Strengthen the bonds among all your people so that the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and all in need including those we mention on our prayer list... and those we name aloud or in our hearts Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** The Sharing of the Peace**

(remain seated and gesture a sign of peace to those around you.)

P: Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*** Presentation of the Gifts** *(Please join in speaking.)*

“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

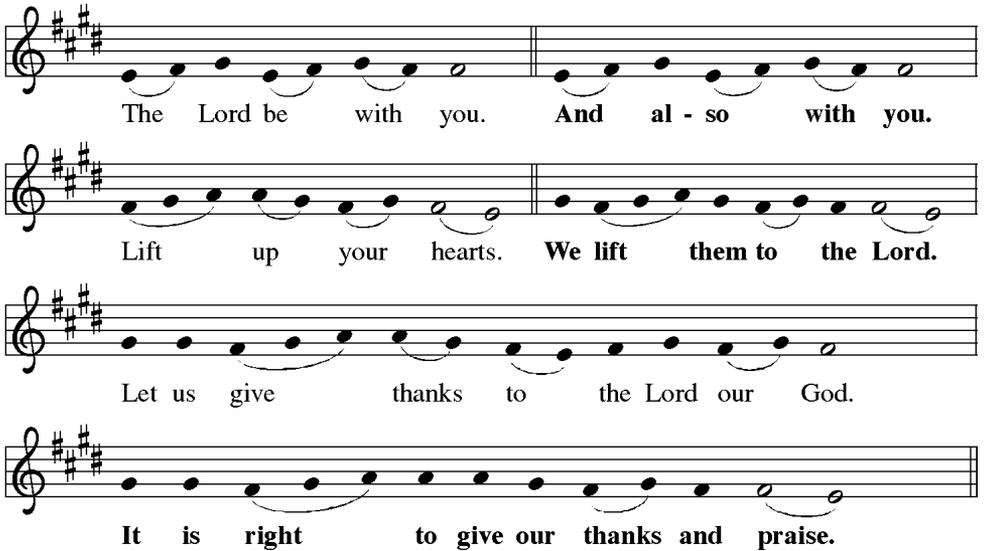
C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

***Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving *(Congregation sing response quietly.)*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by this death has destroyed death and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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**

P: Let us pray. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts, Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

***Blessing**

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, (+) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

(Please remain in your seat until the candles have been extinguished and the Pastor has left the Sanctuary.)

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant – Joyce Petty
Ushers – Michelle Fritzo / Bob Black
Reader – Mike Thompson
Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Mark your Calendars:

Today – Worship, 10:30 am, Sanctuary
5/10/21 – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel or “Zoom”
5/11/21 – Bible Study – “Mark”, 5:30 pm - Chapel
5/13/21 – Prayer Group, 9:30 am - Chapel
5/13/21 – Bible Study – “The Epistles”, 5:30 pm - Chapel
5/14/21 – Newsletter Deadline
5/16/21 – Worship, 10:30 am, “Ascension of Our Lord”
5/16/21 – Property Meeting, after worship – Office
5/16/21 – Outreach Meeting, after worship – Chapel
5/16/21 – Outdoor Social Hour, after worship – Parking Lot
5/16/21 – Geranium Deadline

*Altar Flowers are to the Glory of God
by Ruth & Brad Thomas*





WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN ALTAR FLOWER SPONSOR FOR 5/30/21.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Please be on the lookout for the Mutual Ministry Staff Evaluation Forms in your May Newsletter for the 2020-2021 year. We ask that you please take the time to fill them out and return them to the church office. Your participation is appreciated. (Additional copies can be found in the Narthex.)

Thank You, Mutual Ministry

Outdoor – Social Hour

May 16th

– After Worship

*Join us for Refreshments
and Fellowship!*



**Summer Worship Hours: Beginning June 6th.
Please Join us at 9:30 am.**



Mother's Day

PRAYER

THINKING OF YOU ON MOTHER'S DAY,
AND SAYING A *special* PRAYER —
THAT GOD,
WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE, WILL KEEP YOU IN GOD'S CARE.
THAT GOD WILL *bless* YOUR DAILY LIFE
WITH JOYS OF EVERY KIND —
WITH PERFECT HEALTH AND HAPPINESS AND *peace* OF
HEART AND MIND.

