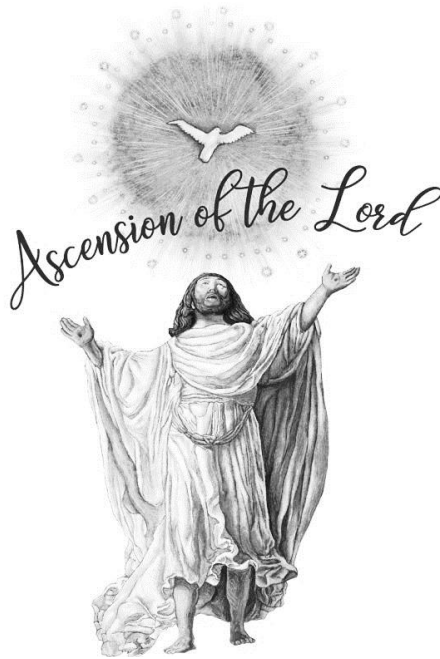


Welcome to Worship

at

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



May 12, 2024

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.

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 *“Ratisbon”* by J.G. Werner (1815)
(Tune of *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*)

*Call to Worship

P: You have heard what was written about Jesus in Scripture—how he would suffer and die and then rise from the dead on the third day; how the same power that raised Jesus from the dead raised our Lord to heaven to sit at the right hand of God, where the eternal Christ now lives to intercede on our behalf. So let us come before God with confidence, through the loving intercession of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

C: Our God is exalted on high, Sovereign over all the nations, and Lord of our lives. Let us worship together.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 392 *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

*Greeting

- page 147

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 147

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast . . .”

- page 149

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign 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

Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to

them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

**²For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

**⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

**⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God
of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward
all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for
you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of
wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with
the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope
to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious
inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable
greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the
working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ
when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand
in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power
and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in

Sermon — The Rev. Mike Button

**Hymn of the Day* —

ELW # 553 *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*

**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 and all ministers of the gospel, that the Spirit will empower them to be your witnesses throughout the earth. Keep all teachers and missionaries under your care and guide them as they proclaim your word to the world. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of creation and for all your creatures: for zoos, nature preserves, and conservation organizations, for endangered species, and for those who work to protect all that you have made. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and those who govern: for all countries, regions, and people in crisis or at war. Bring your peace on earth, in our homes, and in our hearts. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For all in any need: for exiles, refugees, and those fleeing war and poverty, for those who suffer from individual and institutionalized racism. For those who grieve, and for those sick or not well including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation and for its concerns: for visitors, for those who are absent, for those in prison, for the homebound, and for those who travel. Enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now rest in you. Following the example of all those who have died in the faith, strengthen us to share your good news in the world. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

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

“Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels” by H.Gerike/J.Vajda
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn** ELW #184 *“Let the Vineyards”*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 152

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

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

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

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

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***Invitation to Communion** - 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 Hymns

ELW #496 ***“One Bread, One Body”***

ELW #494 ***“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”***

ELW #492 ***“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”***

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #207 " *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* "



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW #604 *“O Christ, Our Hope”*

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude *“Fugue in C Major”* by Dietrich Buxtehude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Charles Lewis

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – Bill Iacovone

This Week at St. John's May 12th – May 19th

Today (5/12/24) – Ascension of Our Lord, 10:30 am

Today (5/12/24) – Following Worship: Membership, Office

Today (5/12/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Monday (5/13/24) –Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (5/14/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Friday (5/17/24) – Newsletter Deadline

Sunday (5/19/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (5/19/24) – Pentecost Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday (5/19/24) – Following Worship: Property, Office

Sunday (5/19/24) – Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm

*Altar Flowers Sponsored
"In Memory of Our Mother"
by the Kalapay Family*



Attendance: 50

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,838.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$36,583.00

**ADULT FORUM:
SUNDAYS @ 9:00 AM IN THE GALLERY**

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, James, Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Maria, Matt, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Madelyn, Jeff, Bill, Charlie Caitlin, Mike, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the St. John's Call Committee



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



The works of *Mary Button*

Open – Sunday's 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Mary is a teacher, writer, designer, speaker, illustrator, and daughter of Pastor Mike and Carolyn Button. Come see the liturgical and devotional art she creates and get inspired.

May Benevolence, Safe Harbor

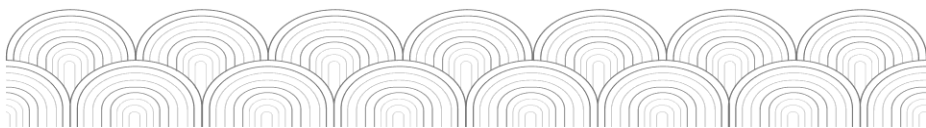
Spring is a time for new beginnings and the residents of Safe Harbor of Easton sure do know about fresh starts and new beginnings.

MISSION: Fostering lifelong success and stability in homeless men and women by addressing the root causes of their homelessness.

Monetary donations can be put in the offering plate marked "Safe Harbor", made online, or by check mailed to:

Safe Harbor Easton, 536 Bushkill Drive, Easton, Pa. 18042.

Tell others about the wonderful work done at Safe Harbor!



For Your Information:

The church council at St. John's has approved the use of the Chapel on a trial basis to the Solo Las Escriuras who has been looking for a space to worship and we are happy to help. They will be meeting Sundays from 2-4:00 pm and will also have use of the Hospitality Room and Nursery. We welcome them !!



Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike.

Make an online donation:

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

Give a monthly gift:

Become a monthly partner and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Mail your donation:

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
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Put your donations in the offering plate:

Please mark "Lutheran Disaster Relief"

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4. "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" (ELW #492, Text & Music: Jeremy Young © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.)

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HAPPY Mother's Day



A Prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle and joy, we thank you.

Lord, we remember the mothers of Scripture who are a
part of our story as we are a part of your story.
For their courage, faith, love, and fierceness, we thank you.

Lord, we remember those who have not given birth to us
but are mothers to us.

For their gift of themselves that they have given,
we thank you.

For the women who struggle with motherhood or becoming
mothers, and for those women who have lost children.
For their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom,
for their lives, we thank you.

In your name we pray. Amen.