

Welcome to Worship

at

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



“Peace be with you!  
As the Father sent me,  
I am sending you.”

John 20:21

April 7, 2024

10:30 am

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

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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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.

~

**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**      “*Cristo vive*” arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

## **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

P: We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 384 *“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”*

### **\*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, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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**

**Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

<sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

<sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

## Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his  
robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

## Second Reading

## 1 John 1:1--2:2

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**      *“Alleluia”*      - page 151

**\* Gospel**      **John 20:19-31**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the

nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** — *The Reverend Mike Button*

**\*Hymn of the Day** —

ELW # 635 *“We Walk by Faith”*



## *\*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: Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we are witness to your love. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain 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: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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**     *“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”* (Fr. 15th c.)

**\*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. 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** - 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.*



## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Announcements**

### **\*Blessing**

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW# 535 *“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”*

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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3. "We Come to the Hungry Feast" (ELW #479, Text & Music: Ray Makeever © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
4. "'Bread of Life from Heaven" (ELW #474, Text: Susan Briehl; Music: Argentine trad., refrain; Marty Haugen, stanzas. Text and music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.)
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**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Jim Heck

**Ushers** – Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway

**Reader** – Larry Transue

**Altar Guild** – Barb Horinko / Sylvia Orem

**Video Team** –

**This Week at St. John's April 7<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (4/7/24) – Second Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

**Today** (4/7/24) – Following Worship: Finance

**Monday** (4/8/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (4/8/24) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Tuesday** (4/9/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (4/10/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hosp. Rm.

**Saturday** (4/13/24) – Archives, 10-12:00 am

**Sunday** (4/14/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (4/14/24) – Third Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (4/14/24) – Following Worship: Membership

**Sunday** (4/14/24) – Following Worship:  
Gallery Opening Reception

**Attendance: 84**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering: 3/28, 3/29, 3/31	\$4,834.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$28,142.00

*Altar Flowers are sponsored in loving memory of  
Charles & Mary Black by Bob & Cindy Black*



**ADULT FORUM: NEW TOPIC  
"LETTER OF LOVE: A STUDY OF 1 JOHN"  
SUNDAYS @ 9:00 AM IN THE GALLERY**

*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Deanna, Pam, James,  
Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Matt, Carolyn,  
Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald, Terry, Jim, Shirley,  
Madelyn, Jeff, Carol, Bill, Caitlin, Mike, Sarah,  
Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and  
the Family and Friends of Mildred Gillingham



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

**The works of *Mary Button***

***Opening—April 14th, 2024***

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



## ***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  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



### **Put your donations in the offering plate:**

*Please mark "Lutheran Disaster Relief"*

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING ITEMS FOR DONATION TO THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

DONATION ITEMS INCLUDE: SOFT DOG TREATS, HEAVY DUTY DOG TOYS, HEAVY DUTY DOG LEASHES, MARTINGALE COLLARS, BLEACH, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, DAWN DISH SOAP, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, 55 GALLON HEAVY DUTY TRASH BAGS, NEW OR GENTLY USED LINENS.



THERE IS A DONATION BOX IN THE NARTHEX FOR DONATIONS . . .

## **Are you interested in attending the Mission District Assembly ???**

The Mission District Assembly will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at:  
*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,  
67 W Washington Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018*

Each congregation in the Mission District should be represented by a rostered leader or pastoral care provider along with two lay delegates.

The two lay delegates should be the same as those who will be attending the Synod Assembly in June.

Along with other business, we will be electing a new Mission District Dean.

Please give some thought in volunteering to attend this important event.

## **Or the Synod Assembly?**

**Saturday  
June 8  
8:30am - 4:30pm**



**Atonement Lutheran Church**  
5 Wyomissing Blvd.  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

### **First Ever Hybrid Assembly**

Two attendance options for voting members: In-person and online (Zoom)

**Registration: \$130**

(same for both attendance options)

*Lunch will be provided for the in-person gathering.*



**Registration  
Now Open**

*Registration will close at  
midnight on May 10*

Registration questions should be directed to **Laurie Christman** at  
[laurie@nep-synod.org](mailto:laurie@nep-synod.org)  
610-266-5101 ext. 111

**There will be a viewing party at St. Paul's Third for the Synod Assembly, travel to Wyomissing will not be necessary . . .  
(Contact the Church Office for more information.)**