

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



March 31, 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.

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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.

Prelude

“The Day of Resurrection” set by Michael Burkhardt
Andrew Borek, Trumpet

Easter Proclamation

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 365 *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today ”*

*Greeting

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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.

*Canticle of Praise

ELW # 377 *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Welcome

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus
Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee
after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were
oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both
in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God
raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us
who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose
from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the
one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about
him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

* Gospel

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW #389 *“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*

***Affirmation of Baptism**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling, are sick or in pain including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* help your people make it through each day. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. 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

“Sing to God, Sing and Rejoice” by Mark Patterson
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*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

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*Preface

(Leader continues . . .)

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Thanksgiving at the Table**

(Leader continues . . .)

***Lord's Prayer**

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***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 Music

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” by J. S. Bach

“Now the Green Blade Rises” arr. by Stan Pethel

“This Joyful Eastertide”/“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”

James Heck, violin

***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 - jice 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. 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: 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# 376 *“Thine Is the Glory”*

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

“La Réjouissance” by G. F. Handel
From: *“Music for the Royal Fireworks”*
Andrew Borek, Trumpet

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Chris Orem
Ushers – Bob & Cindy Black
Reader – John Fritchman
Altar Guild – Judi & Linda Kalapay
Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's March 31st – April 7th

Today (3/31/24) – Easter Sunday, 10:30 am
Monday (4/1/24) – Office Closed
Monday (4/1/24) – No Choir Practice
Tuesday (4/2/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.
Wednesday (4/3/24) – Council Reports Due
Sunday (4/7/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am
Sunday (4/7/24) – Second Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am
Sunday (4/7/24) – Following Worship, Finance - Office

Attendance: 67

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,506.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$23,308.00

*Altar Flowers are sponsored in loving memory of our son, Kevin Lynn.
"Happy Heavenly Birthday" you are missed – by Peggy & Tony Pitt*





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

Thank you, Andrew Borek, Jim Heck, and the Wittenburg Choir for sharing your special music with us today!

If you have not done so yet this year, please fill out a Communion Record Card. To update our membership rolls, it is important to fill one out every year. There are communion cards in the pews, or just ask the greeters. Cards can be placed in the offering plate when complete.

Thank You All . . .



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

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

Or the Synod Assembly?

Saturday June 8th, 8:30-4:30 pm
{ Viewing Party at St. Paul's Third (Easton) }

Contact the Church Office for more information . . .

GALLERY NEWS: UPDATE, THE NEXT GALLERY OPENING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14TH, NOT APRIL 7TH AS STATED IN THE NEWSLETTER.



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