

Welcome to Worship

at

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



April 14, 2024

10:30 am

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

**Guest Leader:** Steven 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.

### **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** “Orientis partibus” arr. Frank Ferko  
 (“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”)

## **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Look, here is water!

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

L: 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!**

L: 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.

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.**

L: Look, here is water!

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

### **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 361 *"The Day of Resurrection!"*

### **\*Greeting**

- page 147

L: 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. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 3:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

## Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear  
my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”  
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

## Second Reading

## 1 John 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called  
children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world  
does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are  
God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.  
What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him,



while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily – *Steve Moyer*

\*Hymn of the Day –

ELW # 522 *“As We Gather at Your Table”*

\**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. O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct your people to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty 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: O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. 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*

L: 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**      *“Day of Arising”* (ELW #374)  
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



bles-sing. 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.*

# Communion Hymns

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

ELW #364 *“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”*

ELW #468 *“Around You, O Lord Jesus”*

## \*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. 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**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: 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# 366 *“The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done”*

## \*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** “*I Danced in the Morning*” - 19th c. Shaker tune

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**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Joyce Petty

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

**Reader** – Cindy Black

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

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

**This Week at St. John's April 14<sup>th</sup> – April 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Today** (4/14/24) – Following Worship: Membership, Office  
Spiritual Life - Chapel

**Today** (4/14/24) – Gallery Opening Reception, 12-3:00 pm

**Monday** (4/15/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (4/16/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Friday** (4/19/24) – Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday** (4/21/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (4/21/24) – Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (4/21/24) – Following Worship: Property, Office  
Outreach, Chapel

**Sunday** (4/21/24) – Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 52**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,593.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$29,735.00

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Ruth & Brad Thomas – “To the Glory of God”



**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 St. John's Call Committee



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



**The works of *Mary Button***

***Opening—Today***

***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.***

thank you, Steve Moyer for leading us today  
while Pastor Button is out . . .



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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 ...

# Pet Word Search

Find all of the pet related words in the puzzle below.

- Best friend
- Budgie
  - Bunny
  - Canary
  - Cat
  - Dog
  - Feed
  - Fish
  - Gerbil
  - Guinea pig
  - Hamster
  - Love
  - Pet
  - Turtle
  - Walk

