

Welcome to Worship

at

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

I am the good shepherd. The good  
shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- John 10:11 -



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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

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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**      “*St. Columba*” arr. J. Dawlom

## **\*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 # 531 *“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”*

### **\*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. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father 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 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsive Reading:*

**Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*“Alleluia”*

*- page 151*

## \* Gospel

**John 10:11-18**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** — The Rev. Mike Button

**\*Hymn of the Day** —

ELW # 502 *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*



## *\*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. Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for all your people 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: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins more deeply. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. 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

“Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment” (ACS #1036)  
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. 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 # 484 ***“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”***

ELW # 780 ***“Shepherd Me, O God”***

ELW # 466 ***“In the Singing”***

## **\*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

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

*(purple hymnal)*

ACS #1062 ***“Build a Longer Table”***

### \*Dismissal

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

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

## Postlude



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

**Worship Assistant**– Chris Orem

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

**Reader** – Mike Thompson

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

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

**This Week at St. John's April 21<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

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

**Monday** (4/22/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (4/23/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

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

**Friday** (4/26/24) – Newsletter Folding

**Sunday** (4/28/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (4/28/24) – Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (4/28/24) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

**Sunday** (4/28/24) – Gallery Open 12-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 54**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,893.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$31,628.00

*Altar Flowers Sponsors are needed.  
Please see the list in the Narthex.*



**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***

***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.***



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 . . .

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**WANTED!**

**PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MURDER MYSTERY!**

**PLACE: UNITED FELLOWSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**

**TIME: COVERED DISH STARTING AT 6 P.M.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT PASTOR MIKE.**

*May God smile down on you each day . . .  
And may faith and hope lift you up always !*

I believe with all my heart that our prayers are heard, and that  
God graces our lives with as much hope and love and comfort as  
our hearts can hold. I wish you the joy and serenity that come  
from every whispered prayer, and I know that . . . in God' s  
plans . . . there are so many beautiful days just waiting to  
shine their light on you !

**Join us . . .**

Prayer Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month  
at 11:00 am - In the Hospitality Room.

## ***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"*



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