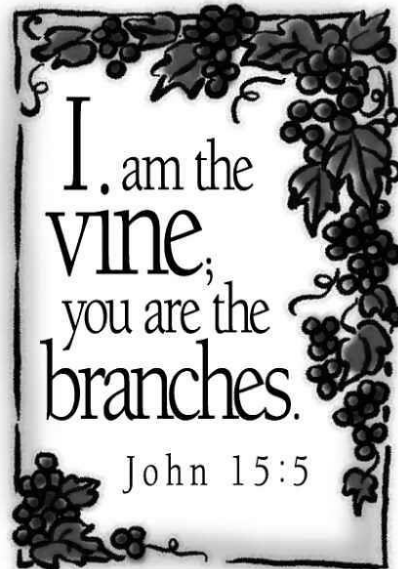


Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Fifth **S**unday of **E**aster

April 28, 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 “*Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*” by W. Walker
(Tune: “Prospect” from *Southern Harmony*, 1835)

*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. 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**

(purple hymnal)

ACS #957 *"Take Me to the Water"*

***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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so

are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

*** Gospel** **John 15:1-8**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is

glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Rev. Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day** — *(purple hymnal)*

ACS #965 *“The Rice of Life”*

***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 around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering 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: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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 “*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*” (WOV #672)
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

(purple hymnal)

ACS #967 ***“This Is Christ’s Body”*** (Sing 2X)

ACS #958 ***“To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold”***

ACS #939 ***“Touch That Soothes and Heals”***

***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

ELW #367 *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”*

*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– Steve Moyer

Ushers – Barb Horinko / Lois Anne Calloway

Reader – Wayne Docker

Altar Guild – Barb Horinko / Sylvia Orem

Video Team – Volunteer

This Week at St. John's April 28th – May 5th

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

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

Today (4/28/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Monday (4/29/24) – No Choir Practice

Tuesday (4/30/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

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

Sunday (5/5/24) – Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am

Sunday (5/5/24) – Following Worship: Finance

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

Attendance: 50

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,495.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$33,123.00

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



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

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Deanna, Pam, James,
Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Maria, Matt,
Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald,
Terry, Jim, Shirley, Madelyn, Jeff, Bill, Charlie
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 . . .

*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, 2nd & 4th 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"



Worship liturgy and song usage in this service has been obtained with a subscription to sundaysandseasons.com © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies, Annual License #SAS003368. All rights reserved.

Permission to stream the following music has been obtained from OneLicense, license #A722086. All rights reserved.

1. "Take Me to the Water" (ACS #957, Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
2. "The Rice of Life" (ACS #965, Text: J. A. Fowler; Music: I-to Loh; Text & music © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
3. "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" (WOV #672, Text: Brian Wren; Music: William Rowan; Text & Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company.)
4. "This Is Christ's Body" (ACS #967, Text & Music: Anne Krentz Organ © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.)
5. "To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold" (ACS #958, Text © 2011 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music © 2011 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)
6. "Touch That Soothes and Heals" (ACS #939, Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publ., Inc.; Music: Gregg DeMey © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources.)
7. "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (ELW #367, Text: Paul Z. Strodach © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.)

Remaining music is from the public domain.