

*Welcome to Worship*

at

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



*Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*

February 4, 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](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

*“Nettleton”* by J. Wyeth  
*(“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”)*

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock, and refuge,

**C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 858 *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

## \*Greeting

- page 203

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 203

## \*Canticle of Praise

*“Glory to God” (verse 1)*

- page 204

## \*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## Children’s Chat

# Word

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

## First Reading

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall

exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsive Reading:*

**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the  
mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

## *Second Reading*

## **1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel**

**Mark 1: 29-39**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

<sup>30</sup>Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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



## \*Hymn of the Day –

ELW #610 *“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”*

## \*Apostles Creed

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

**A:** Let us pray. Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

**A:** Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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**    *“Canon of Praise”* set by Hal Hopson

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

**\*Offertory Hymn**

ELW #465    *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

- page 206

\* **Preface** *(Leader continues . . .)*

\***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 207

\***Thanksgiving at the Table** *(Leader continues . . .)*

\***Lord's Prayer** - page 208

\***Lamb of God** - page 208

\***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 Hymns**

ELW # 787 ***“On Eagle’s Wings”***

ELW # 843 ***“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”***

ELW # 638 ***“Blessed Assurance”***

## \*Table Blessing

## \*Post Communion Hymn

ELW #313 *"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"*.

## \*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending

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

## Announcements

## \*Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Sending Hymn

ELW # 612 *"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** “*Andante and Fugue*” by Friedrich Zachow

Worship liturgy and song usage in this service has been obtained with a subscription to [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) © 2023 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. “O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come” (ELW #610, Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1969 Hope Publishing Company.)
2. “Canon of Praise” (Text and setting: Hal Hopson; Music: Johann Pachelbel; Arr. © 1984 Hope Publishing.)
3. “As the Grains of Wheat” (ELW #465, Text: Didache, 2nd c. & Marty Haugen; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.)
4. “On Eagle’s Wings” (ELW #787, Text & Music: Michael Joncas © 1979 OCP Publications.)
5. “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (ELW #843, Text: Rusty Edwards © 1987 Hope Publishing Company.)
6. “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant” (ELW #313, Text: Ernest Ryden, alt., based on the *Nunc dimittis* © 1925 Board of Pub., Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.)
7. “Healer of Our Every Ill” (ELW #612, Text & Music: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)

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

**Worship Assistant**– Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman

**Reader** – Cindy Black

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – Dave Faulkner

**This Week at St. John's: February 4<sup>th</sup> – February 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (2/4/24) – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

**Today** (2/4/24) – Following Worship: Finance Mtg. – Office

**Today** (2/4/24) – Gallery Opening Reception, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Monday** (2/5/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (2/6/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (2/7/24) – Council Reports Due

**Saturday** (2/10/24) – Archives, 10:00 am

**Sunday** (2/11/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (2/11/24) – Transfiguration of Our Lord, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (2/11/24) – Following Worship: Membership - Office

**Sunday** (2/11/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 55**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,225.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$6,366.00

**"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY - BRING IN YOUR SOUP CANS . . .**

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING:**

**CANNED SOUP AND SOUP BEANS FOR DONATION**

**COLLECTION DATES: FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> \$ FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>**



*Winter is Here . . .*

*In the case of inclement weather, please check your e-mails, church website, and WFMZ Stormcenter – Channel 69 News for information on the church closing. If you did not receive an e-mail this past week regarding the recent "Closing for Snow", please send a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list. [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)*



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

**~ Artist Michael Palladino ~ Featuring—"Local Nature"**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>—March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays 12:00—3:00 pm**

***Prayer Concerns:*** Chuck, Sandy, Pam, James, Kara, Christine, Pat, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Panama, Sienna, Mildred, Donald, Jim, Betty, Terry, Madelyn, Ken, Sarah, Louise, Tony, Caitlin, Ruth, Arlene, and Our Homebound Family and Friends . . .

