

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

330 Ferry Street; Easton, PA 18042-4500

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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.

Welcome

Prelude *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”* by Georg Boltze

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

... Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ACS # 979 *“Making Their Way”*

***Greeting**

- page 138

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 138

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them

as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** *“Return To the Lord”* - page 142

*** Gospel**

John 12:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray

him), said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon – The Rev. Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 597 *“My Home Is Built on Nothing Less”*

***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. The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah’s imagination, Paul’s transformed identity, and Mary’s faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises.

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet’s future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

After each petition, please join in singing:

ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

A: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities.

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

Join in singing:

ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

Join in singing:

ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 *“Holy Woman, Graceful Giver”* (John 12)
- ACS 1002 Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

***Presentation of Gifts**

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ELW # 185 *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** - page 144

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 144

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

***Lord's Prayer** - page 145

***Lamb of God** - page 146

***Invitation to Communion** - page 146

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 # 466 *“In the Singing”*

ELW #474 *“Bread of Life from Heaven”*

ELW # 478 *“Father, We Thank You”*

*Table Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn

ELW # 209 *“Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life”*

Bless - ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless - ed be God, the source of all
life, the word of sal - va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Bless - ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -". The second staff contains the second line: "va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless - ed be God, the source of all". The third staff contains the third line: "life, the word of sal - va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy." and ends with a double bar line.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

***Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ELW # 329 *“As the Sun with Longer Journey”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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2. "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW #752, Text & Music: Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.)
3. "Holy Woman, Graceful Giver (John 12)" (ACS #1002, Text © 2016 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Anne Krentz Organ © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.)
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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant—Chris Orem

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Larry Transue

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's April 6th – April 13th

Today (4/6/25) – Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am

Today (4/6/25) – Gallery Open, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Monday (4/7/25) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

Wednesday (4/9/25) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Wednesday (4/9/25) – Council Reports Due

Wednesday (4/9/25) – Lenten Dinner, 6:00 pm /Worship, 7:00 pm
@ St. Andrews

Saturday (4/12/25) –Palm Sunday Brunch Set-Up, 10:00 am

Saturday (4/12/25) – Archive Committee, 10:00 am

Sunday (4/13/25) –Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (4/13/25) – Palm Sunday, 10:30 am

Week 13, 3/30/25 Attendance - 57

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,139.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1,971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$26,926.00
Difference Compared to Budget	+ \$3,274.00

Prayer List: Chuck, Vicki, Clark, Donna, Kara, Christine, Jessica, Janice, Donald, Bucky, Maryland, Derrick, Tara, Gene, Kim, Will, Danny, Mary, Helen, Carolyn, Lois Anne, Charles, Julia, David, Donald, Barbara, Terry, Jeff, Chuck, Debbie, Craig, Paul, Kristine, Pastor Orem, Peggy, Tony, Sharon, Sarah, Arlene, Joan, Our Homebound Family & Friends, the St. John's Call Committee, Our Future Pastor, and the family and friends of John Border.

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Join us for Prayer Group:  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month  
@ 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room



***Come Celebrate with us . . . Palm Sunday Brunch***

***April 13th, 2025***  
***(following Worship in the fellowship hall)***

***The Congregation is being asked to please, bring a  
dessert to share . . .***

***Volunteers are also needed to set up,  
April 11th @ 10:00 am  
and to clean up following the  
brunch.+***

***(Please see the sign-up sheets in  
the Narthex.)***



NEPA Synod, Easton Cluster Churches invite you to . . .

Wednesday Lenten ~ Light Meals and Worship  
(6:00 pm) (7:00 pm)



April 9th, ~ St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
(3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton)



*Attention all members, please remember to fill out a communion card for the 2025 church year if you have not done so yet. This card is a record of your membership in the congregation and keeps you active on our official rolls.*

*Thank you for your help.  
The Membership Committee*

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING FOR THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL . . .**

***There is a box in the Narthex for your donations of:  
Dog Treats, Heavy Duty Dog Toys, Heavy Duty Leashes, Bleach,  
Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dawn Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, 55  
Gallon Heavy Duty Garbage Bags,  
New or gently Used Linens . . .***

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!**



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

***"Countryside Landscapes Knolls  
and Meadow"***

*March 9th thru April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays, 12:00 – 3:00 pm*



