

Welcome to Worship

at

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



*First Sunday in Lent*

March 9, 2025

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.

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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

*“Deo Gracias”*

Tune: *“Agincourt Hymn”* (English, 15th c.)

## \*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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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**

ELW # 611    *“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”*

### **\*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. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

### Deuteronomy 26:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number,

and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading:**

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

<sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,

<sup>10</sup> **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

**<sup>12</sup> Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

**<sup>14</sup> I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**<sup>16</sup> With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 10:8b-13**

<sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you  
confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart  
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one  
believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with  
the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who  
believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction  
between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is  
generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the  
name of the Lord shall be saved.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel**

**Luke 4:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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



*Sermon – The Rev. Mike Button*

**\*Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 319 *“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”*

**\*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. Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.

Speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. 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;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a steady eighth-note bass line.



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

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A: Speak words of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.

Speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

*Join in singing:*

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless all who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .*

We give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. 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**      *“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”* (ELW #333)

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

ACS # 967 *“This Is Christ’s Body”*

ACS # 969 *“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”*

ACS # 924 *“Welcome Table”*

## \*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 melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff 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 # 326 *“Bless Now, O God, The Journey”*



## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

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- 1. "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" (ELW #319, Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: A. Davison, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore Beck, 1929-2003.)*
- 2. "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW #752, Text & Music: Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.)*
- 3. "This Is Christ's Body" (ACS #967, Text & Music: Anne Krentz Organ © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 4. "Welcome Table" (ACS #969, African American spiritual arr. Mark Hayes © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 5. "As the Winter Days Grow Longer" (ACS #924, Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications; Music: Welsh melody, arr. hymnal version © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.)*
- 6. "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" (ELW #326, Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publication; Music: Welsh tune, 19th. c.)*

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

**Worship Assistant**—Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Cindy & Bob Black

**Reader** – Bob Black

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

**Video Team** – Bill Iacovone

**This Week at St. John's March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (3/9/25) – First Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am

**Today** (3/9/25) – Following Worship: Finance – Office,  
Membership -

**Today** (3/9/25) – Gallery Opening Today . . . 12:00 - 3:00 pm

**Monday** (3/10/25) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (3/10/25) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

**Wednesday** (3/12/25) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

**Wednesday** (3/12/25) – Lenten Dinner, 6:00 pm /Worship, 7:00 pm  
@ St. Paul's

**Friday** (3/14/25) – Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday** (3/16/25) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (3/16/25) – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am

Week 9, 3/2/25 Attendance - 52

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,738.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1,971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$18,988.00
Difference Compared to Budget	+ \$3,220.00

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

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



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



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

*Show Opening ~ March 9th  
(~runs thru April 13th~)*

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

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



March 12th,

\* St. Paul's Third Lutheran Church  
(2561 Newburg Road, Easton)

March 19th,

\* St. John's Lutheran Church  
(330 Ferry Street, Easton)

[Be on the lookout for a sign-up for donations  
of Soup, Bread, and Dessert]

March 26th,

\*Arndt's Lutheran Church  
(1851 Arndt Road, Easton)

April 2nd,

\*United Fellowship Lutheran  
(2115 Washington Blvd. Easton)

April 9th,

\*St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
(3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton)