

Welcome to Worship

at

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



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 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

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 *“Improvisation on “O Perfect Love” (LBW 287)*

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin . . .

Merciful God,

C: You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 705 *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

***Greeting**

- page 98

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 98

***Canticle of Praise**

“Glory to God”

- page 99

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my
mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes

prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Rev. Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 644 *“Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue”*

***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. God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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 “Spirit, Open My Heart” (ACS 1043)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

[with congregation joining on refrains]

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ACS# 914 “Jesus, the Light of the World” (v. 4)

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** *- page 107*

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

***Holy, Holy, Holy** *- page 108*

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

***Lord's Prayer** *- page 112*

***Lamb of God** *- page 112*

***Invitation to Communion** *- page 112*

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 # 648 ***“Beloved, God’s Chosen”***

ELW # 483 ***“Here Is Bread”***

ELW # 480 ***“O Bread of Life from Heaven”***

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ACS #984 *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 836 *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant—Steve Moyer

Ushers – Sue Worman / Barbara Horinko

Reader – Mike Thompson

Altar Guild – Linda Kalapay / Judi Kalapay

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's February 2nd – February 9th

Today (2/2/25) – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30 am

Monday (2/3/25) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm.

Wednesday (2/5/25) – Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Wednesday (2/5/25) – Council Reports Due

Saturday (2/8/25) – Archives Committee, 10:00 am

Sunday (2/9/25) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (2/9/25) – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30 am

Week 4, 1/26/25 Attendance - 45

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,314.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1,971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$8223.00
Difference Compared to Budget	\$339.00

