

Welcome to Worship

at

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



February 25, 2024

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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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 *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”* by George Boltz

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another . . .

Holy God,

C: We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✚ Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 324 *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

***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 God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

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.

²⁸**For 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.

³⁰**Their 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

Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not

only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

*** Gospel**

Mark 8:31-38

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day —**

ELW #796 ***“How Firm a Foundation”***

***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: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders.

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife so that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

After each petition, please join in singing:

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system's lyrics are "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;". The second system's lyrics are "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

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: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion.

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved or in pain, including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Hear us, O God.

Join in singing:

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

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love.

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Join in singing:

ELW #752 "***Lord Listen to Your Children Praying***"

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 "*Lord, Be Our Light*" by Mark Patterson
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.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

***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**

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 (All Creation Sings - Purple Book)

ACS # 922 ***“When We Are Tested”***

ACS # 924 ***“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”***

ACS # 966 ***“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”***

***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.

***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: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ELW# 514 *"O Word of God Incarnate"*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Susan Worman

Reader – Mike Thompson

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's: February 25th – March 3rd

Today (2/25/24) – Second Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

Today (2/25/24) – Following Worship: Rachel's Circle

Today (2/25/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

Tuesday (2/27/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (2/28/24) – Mid-Week Lenten Worship
– St. John's – 330 Ferry Street,
6:00 pm (Soup), 7:00 pm (Worship)

Saturday (3/2/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

Sunday (3/3/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

Sunday (3/3/24) – Third Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

Sunday (3/3/24) – Following Worship: Finance - Office

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

Attendance: 51

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1214.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$12,300.00



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 sent a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list. Admin@stjohnseaston.org



The Gallery at St. John's . . .

~ Artist Michael Palladino ~ Featuring—“Local Nature”

February 4th—March 10th

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

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



*Altar Flowers are sponsored today
by Linda & Judi Kalapay
in thankfulness for their family . . .*



*Mark your Calendars and
Join the Easton Community Lutheran
Churches for . . .*

Lenten Midweek Services

Light Meal – 6:00 pm

Worship – 7:00 pm

† *Wednesday—February 28th*

@ St. John's 330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA 18042

{ Volunteers will be needed to donate: Soup, Bread, and Dessert . . . }
See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

† *Wednesday—March 6th*

@ Arndt's Lutheran Church 1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA 18040

† *Wednesday—March 13th*

@ United Fellowship 2115 Washington Blvd. – Easton, PA

† *Wednesday—March 20th*

@ St. Andrew's 3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA 18045

EASTER Flowers



Order Form

*Easter morn with lilies fair
Fills the church with
perfumes rare,
As their clouds of
incense rise,
Sweetest offerings
to the skies.
Stately lilies pure and white
Flooding darkness
with their light,
Bloom and sorrow
drifts away,
On this holy hallow'd day.
Easter Lilies bending low
in the golden afterglow,
Bear a message
from the sod
To the heavenly towers
of God.*

*Help beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning
with your dedications . . .*

Order Deadline: March 10th, 2024

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory / Honor / Other: _____

Amount: _____

(\$9.00 / Plant)