

Welcome to Worship

at

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



March 3, 2024

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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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      *“Psalm 19” by Benedetto Marcello*

## \*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 # 321 *“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”*

## \*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. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

**Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading:**

### **Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to  
the ends of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs  
about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the  
eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine  
gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them  
not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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



## \* Gospel

John 2:13-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

## \*Hymn of the Day –

ACS #1086 “*O God, Who Gives Us Life*”

## \*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: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance.

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce our footprint. 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 two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;" and "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace."

A: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen efforts to negotiate peace and provide aid to people fleeing from conflict.

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks to all health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick 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: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism.

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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**      *“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”*  
(African American spiritual)

**\*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**

**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 #637 *"Holy God, Holy and Glorious"*

ELW #772 *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"*

ELW #856 *"How Great Thou Art"*

## \*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, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The music 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: 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# 335 *“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”*



## \*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**– Jim Heck

**Ushers** – Bob & Cindy Black

**Reader** – Karla Lake

**Altar Guild** – Judi Kalapay / Linda Kalapay

**Video Team** – Pete Lake

**This Week at St. John's March 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Today** (3/3/24) – Following Worship: Finance

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

**Monday** (3/4/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (3/5/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (3/6/24) – Mid-Week Lenten Worship

– Arndt's Lutheran Church (1851 Arndt Rd, Easton, PA)  
6:00 pm (Soup), 7:00 pm (Worship)

**Saturday** (3/9/24) – Archives Committee, 10-12:00 pm

**Saturday** (3/9/24) – Gallery Open, 12-3:00 pm

**Sunday** (3/10/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

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

**Sunday** (3/10/24) – Following Worship: Membership - Office

**Sunday** (3/10/24) – Gallery Open, 12:00-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 55**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2747.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$15,047.00



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

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**The Rachel's Circle needs your help. In today's bulletin, please find an envelope for donations. This will be used by The Rachel's Circle to purchase food for the *Blessing Box*.**

**If you are able to donate, please contribute, and place the envelope in the offering plate.**

**If you prefer to shop for items . . . canned goods, (*pop-top lids are preferred*), or individually packaged items, are always being collected. Please place them in the basket labeled *Blessing Box* in the Narthex. (*No glass items please.*)**

**We don't know how many people the *Blessing Box* serves, but we do know being hunger-free is a blessing.**

**Thank you from *The Rachel's Circle*.**



Join us for Adult Forum:

*New Topic !*

"The Apostle Paul: His Life, Times, and Ministry"

Sundays @ 9:00 am in the Gallery



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

*Lenten Midweek*

*Services*

*Light Meal – 6:00 pm*

*Worship – 7:00 pm*

*† 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*

**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**

