

Welcome to Worship

at

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



March 10, 2024

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.

~

**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**      *“Praise and Thanks and Adoration”* (16th c. tune)

## \*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 # 339 *“Christ, the Life of All the Living”*

## **\*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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

**Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## Second Reading

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**\* Gospel**

**John 3:14-21**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

**\*Hymn of the Day** —

ELW #666 “*What Wondrous Love Is This*”



## **\*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: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war.**

**Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. 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 written below the vocal line.

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: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who are courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness, sickness, or 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: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. 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**

*“Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love”* arr. Allan R. Petker  
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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the sixth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## **\*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 #592 *"Just As I Am, without One Plea"*

ELW #342 *"There In God's Garden"*

ELW #477 *"I Received the Living God"*

## \*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 the musical notation for the hymn "Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life" (ELW #209). It consists of three staves of music 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 lyrics "Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -". The second staff contains "va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless-ed be God, the source of all". The third staff contains "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: 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# 314 *"O God of Mercy, God of Light"*

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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*Remaining music is from the public domain.*



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

**Worship Assistant**– Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Bob & Cindy Black

**Reader** – Monica Weiss-Nolen

**Altar Guild** – Judi & Linda Kalapay

**Video Team** – Steve Remel

**This Week at St. John's March 10<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Today** (3/10/24) – Following Worship: Membership

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

**Monday** (3/11/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (3/11/24) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Tuesday** (3/12/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (3/13/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (3/13/24) – Mid-Week Lenten Worship

– United Fellowship (2115 Washington Blvd., Easton)  
6:00 pm (Soup), 7:00 pm (Worship)

**Friday** (3/15/24) – Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday** (3/17/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (3/17/24) – Fifth Sunday of Lent, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (3/17/24) – Following Worship: Property – Office  
Outreach - Chapel

*Altar Flowers are sponsored in loving memory of  
my mother, Constance Snyder-Manazer  
on her birthday, by Susan Glenn*



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

Join us for Adult Forum:

New Topic !

“The Apostle Paul: His Life, Times, and Ministry”

Sundays @ 9:00 am in the Gallery

### **PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**SUNDAY MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>, FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

**JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP**

**(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE . . .)**



The Gallery at St. John's . . .

Last day to visit the show !

~ 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



*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



† *Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am*

† *Maundy Thursday – Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm*

† *Good Friday – Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm*

† *Easter Worship – Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 am*

# 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.*

*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)