

Welcome to Worship

at

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



March 17, 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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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 *“Peace of Salvation”* by Jad Wolm

*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 # 758 *“You Are the Way”*

***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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

*** Gospel**

John 12:20-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will

my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day** — *(purple book)*

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

***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: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support efforts to protect the environment for future generations. 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: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and relationships. Protect and comfort all who vulnerable, 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: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill.

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires.
Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting 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

“Seed That in Earth Is Dying” (ELW #330)

Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

James Heck, violin

***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 the notes. The first line ends with a repeat sign, and the second line ends 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

ELW #465 ***“As the Grains of Wheat”***

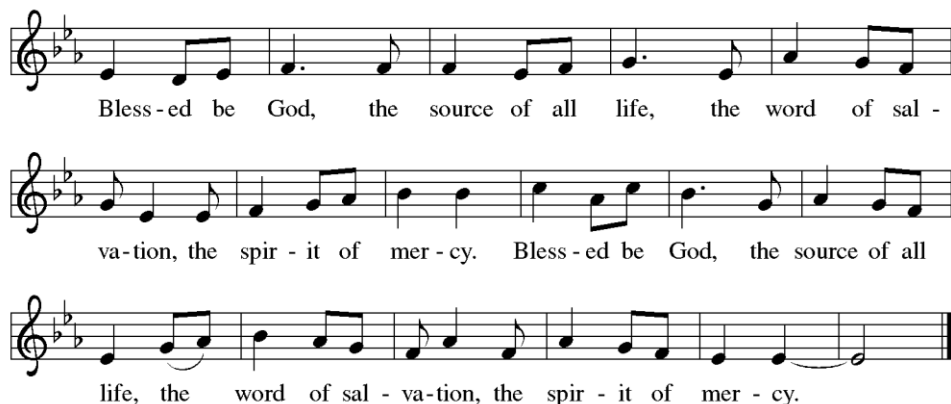
ELW #329 ***“As the Sun with Longer Journey”***

ELW #331 ***“As the Deer Runs to the River”***

*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# 328 *"Restore in Us, O God"*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Chris Orem

Ushers – Bob & Cindy Black

Reader – Chuck Lewis

Altar Guild – Judi & Linda Kalapay

Video Team – Brad Thomas

This Week at St. John's March 17th – March 24th

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

Today (3/17/24) – Following Worship: Property, Outreach

Monday (3/18/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (3/19/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (3/20/24) – Mid-Week Lenten Worship

– St. Andrews (3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton)
6:00 pm (Soup), 7:00 pm (Worship)

Friday (3/22/24) – Newsletter Deadline

Saturday (3/23/24) – Palm Sunday Set-up, 10:00 am

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

Sunday (3/24/24) – Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

Sunday (3/24/24) – Palm Sunday Brunch

Attendance: 52

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1189.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$19,017.00

Please note: No Sunday School or Adult Forum on Easter !

*Altar Flowers are sponsored in honor of my aunt,
Phyllis Morrison by Monica Weiss-Nolen*



Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Deanna, Pam, James,
Kara, Christine, Donald, Janice, Matt, Carolyn,
Julia, Charles, Rita, Donald, Terry, Madelyn, Bill,
Sarah, Doris, Caitlin, Mike, Arlene,
Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the
Family and Friends of Mildred Gillingham



Thank you, Jim Heck, for sharing your special
music with us today, and to the Wittenburg Choir
for their lovely sound.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH
SUNDAY MARCH 24TH, FOLLOWING WORSHIP!
JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP
(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE . . .)





*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 20th*

@ St. Andrew's

3900 Freemansburg Ave, Easton, PA 18045



† Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, March 24th, 10:30 am

† Maundy Thursday – Thursday, March 28th, 7:00 pm

† Good Friday – Friday, March 29th, 7:00 pm

† Easter Worship – Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am

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7. "Restore In Us, O God" (ELW #328, Text: Carl Daw Jr., © 1989 Hope Publishing Co., Music: Hal Hopson © 1985 Hope Publishing Co.)

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Hello, everyone, it's that time again!
Yes, it is time to fill out a communion card.
To update our membership rolls, it is important to fill one
out every year. If you haven't filled one out yet this year,
please take the time to do so. There are communion cards in
the pews, or just ask the greeters.
Please fill one out and put in the offering plate.
Thank You All . . .



Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike.

Make an online donation:

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

Give a monthly gift:

Become a monthly partner and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Mail your donation:

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Put your donations in the offering plate:

Please mark "Lutheran Disaster Relief"

Are you interested in attending the Mission District Assembly ???

The Mission District Assembly will be held on April 27th at:

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,
67 W Washington Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018*

Each congregation in the Mission District should be represented by a rostered leader or pastoral care provider along with two lay delegates.

The two lay delegates should be the same as those who will be attending the Synod Assembly in June.

Along with other business, we will be electing a new Mission District Dean.

Please give some thought in volunteering to attend this important event.

Or the Synod Assembly?

**Saturday
June 8
8:30am - 4:30pm**



Atonement Lutheran Church
5 Wyomissing Blvd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610

First Ever Hybrid Assembly

Two attendance options for voting members: In-person and online (Zoom)

Registration: \$130

(same for both attendance options)

Lunch will be provided for the in-person gathering.



**Registration
Now Open**

*Registration will close at
midnight on May 10*

Registration questions should be directed to **Laurie Christman** at
laurie@nepssynod.org
610-266-5101 ext. 111

Contact the Church Office for more information . . .