

Welcome to Worship

at

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



March 24, 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

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.

***Acclamation**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest.

***Processional Gospel**

Mark 11:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Blessing of the Palms*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . .

We praise you, O God,
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Processional Hymn**

ELW # 344 “*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*”

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name
coming, our King and
Blessed One. *Refrain*

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply.
Refrain

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you
went; our praise and prayer
and anthems before you we
present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your
passion, they sang their
hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
Refrain

5 Their praises you
accepted; accept the
prayers we bring,
great author of all
goodness,
O good and gracious King.
Refrain

***Prayer of the Day**

A: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray ...

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Welcome

Children's Chat

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are
consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a
dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who
persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

*** Gospel**

Mark 14:1--15:47

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Please follow along with, “The Passion of Our Lord”
and join in by saying the words of the **“People”***

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — The Reverend Mike Button

***Hymn of the Day**

ELW #343 *“My Song Is Love Unknown”* (verses 1-4)

***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. Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ’s suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of all who work with the environment and outdoors. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, in foster care or hospitalized including, *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* may all know your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

C: Your mercy is great.

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...)

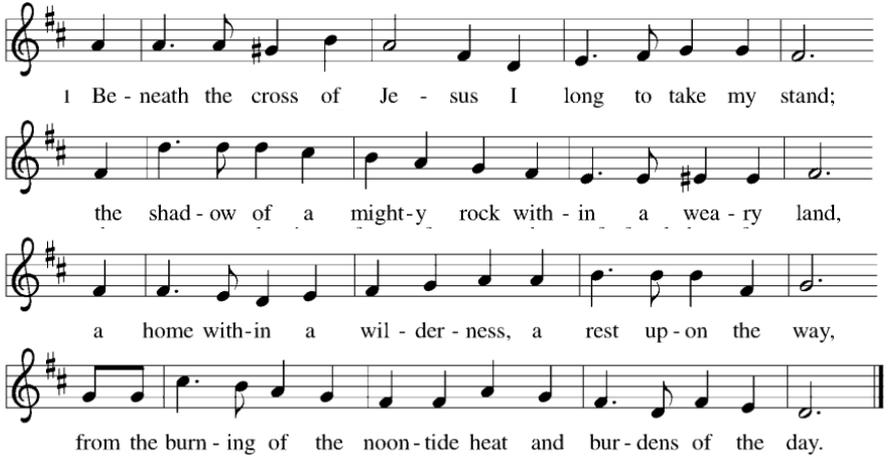
Offertory

“And the People Cried “Hosanna!” by Robert C. Lau
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

***Presentation of Gifts** *(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #338 *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

I Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.

*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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 #336 ***“Lamb of God: Your Only Son”***

ELW #323 ***“God Loved the World”***

ELW #803 ***“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”***

***Table Blessing**

***Post Communion Hymn**

(please sing 2 times)

ELW #801 “*Change My Heart, O God*”



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

***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# 345 *"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Bob & Cindy Black

Reader – Lynn Kutch

Altar Guild – Judi & Linda Kalapay

Video Team – David Faulkner

This Week at St. John's March 24th – March 31st

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

Today (3/24/24) – Following Worship: Palm Sunday Brunch

Monday (3/25/24) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (3/26/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

Wednesday (3/27/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am

Thursday (3/28/24) – Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00 pm

Friday (3/29/24) – Good Friday Worship, 7:00 pm

Sunday (3/31/24) – No Sunday School / Adult Forum

Sunday (3/31/24) – Easter Sunday, 10:30 am

Attendance: 50

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,788.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,087.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$20,802.00

**PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH - TODAY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP!
JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP
(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE . . .)**

*Altar Flowers are sponsored to Celebrate God's Blessings
by Dee Caul*



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



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 . . .



- † Maundy Thursday – Thursday, March 28th, 7:00 pm
- † Good Friday – Friday, March 29th, 7:00 pm
- † Easter Worship – Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am

Adult Forum: New Topic (4/7/24 - start date)

“Letter of Love: A Study of 1 John”

Join us –Sundays at
9:00 am in the Gallery

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
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Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Put your donations in the offering plate:

Please mark “Lutheran Disaster Relief”



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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.

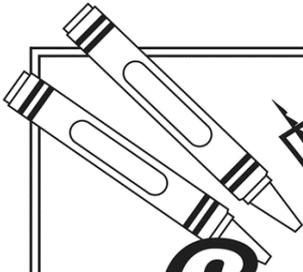


**Registration
Now Open**

*Registration will close at
midnight on May 10*

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

Contact the Church Office for more information . . .



PUZZLE

Praise him!

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a large crowd cheered for him. Complete this puzzle to discover what they used (also see John 12:13).

Directions: In the number grid below, draw lines by starting with the first number in each list and stopping at the last.

122-112-116-102-112
112-68-102
102-107-92-102
102-47-92

92-97-82-92
92-37-82
22-42-44-32-9-42
42-55-52-66-62-77-72

42-19-52-18-62-17-72
82-27-72-87-82
82-42

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56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
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67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
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78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
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89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
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111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
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122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132

