

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



Reformation Sunday

October 27, 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.

Welcome

Prelude “*Verset*” by Abraham Van Den Kerckhoven

Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation

- page 234

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

Profession of Faith

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P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Affirmation of Baptism

- page 236

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ACS # 979 *“Making Their Way”*

***Greeting**

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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 147

***Canticle of Praise**

“Glory to God . . .”

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*Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It 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. ³³ But 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. ³⁴ No 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:

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**⁶ The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸ Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

**¹⁰ “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the
earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

- page 151

*** Gospel**

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — *The Reverend Mike Button*

***Hymn of the Day** —

ELW # 654 “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts . . .* Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace,

A: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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

"Built on a Rock" by Joel Raney
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

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

***Offertory Hymn**

ELW# 531 *"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"*

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.

Refrain

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.
The feast is read - y to be - gin;
the feast is read - y to be - gin.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first three staves contain the main text. The fourth staff is the start of the refrain, marked with a bracket and the word 'Refrain'. The fifth and sixth staves continue the refrain. The seventh and eighth staves repeat the first line of the main text. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and triplets.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving**

- page 152

*** Preface**

(Leader continues . . .)

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

- page 153

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

(Leader continues . . .)

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

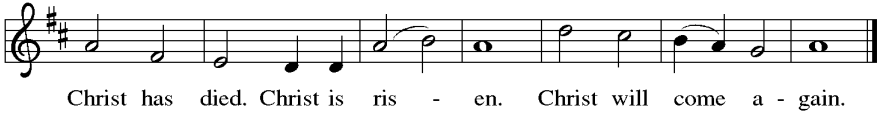
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

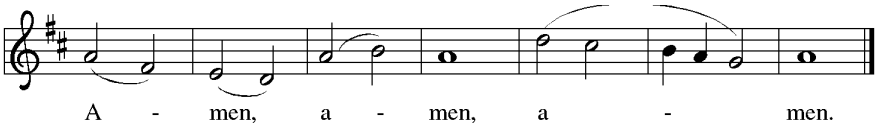
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



***Lord's Prayer** - page 154

***Lamb of God** - page 154

***Invitation to Communion** - page 154

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 # 591 ***“That Priceless Grace”***

ELW # 491 ***“Come Let Us Eat”***

ELW # 492 ***“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”***

***Table Blessing**

***Post Communion Hymn**

(following page)

ELW# 207 *“Thankful Hearts . . .”*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 504 *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude *“Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott”* by J.G. Walther

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Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Jim Heck

Altar Guild – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

Video Team – David Faulkner

This Week at St. John's October 27th – November 3rd

Today (10/27/24) – Reformation Sunday 10:30 am

Today (10/27/24) – Following Worship:
Special Congregational Meeting
Reformation Lunch

Today (10/27/24) – Gallery Show Closing, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Monday (10/28/24) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

Saturday (11/2/34) – BaconFest (Volunteer for parking needed.)

Sunday (11/3/24) – Sunday School / Adult Forum – 9:00 am

Sunday (11/3/24) – All Saints Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday (11/3/24) – Following Worship: Finance Meeting - Office
Rachel's Circle – Chapel

Sunday (11/3/24) – BaconFest (Volunteer for parking needed.)

**NOTE: Special Congregational Meeting
TODAY , Following Worship – Please Join Us!
(To discuss the Plans for the ProJect Porch . . .)**

**Reformation Lunch - TODAY,
in the Gallery following the meeting!**

Week 42, 10/20/24 - **Attendance: 55**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1628.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$85,330.00
Behind Budget	(\$290.00)

Prayer Concerns: Chuck, Clark, Don, Joe, Kara, Christine, Bill, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Matt, Carolyn, Lois Anne, John, Donald, Lenny, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Karla, Debbie, Charlie, Peggy, Tony, Geroge, Joan, Krista, Addison, Cooper, Mary, Bill Our Homebound Family and Friends, the St. John's Call Committee, and our Future Pastor.

Adult Forum: For All the Saints!

Come explore some of the exceptional believers who have shaped our life together in Christ. Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m. - in the Chapel.

Every year for Thanksgiving, The Outreach committee helps those in need by giving out gift cards. If you would like to help someone from the congregation and community this thanksgiving, Outreach is accepting monetary donations.

(please place donations in the offering plate marked "Thanksgiving".)

We thank you for your support. - The Outreach Committee



*The Gallery at St. John's presents . . .
~ Diane Horoschock ~ "Attention to Details"
September 29th—October 27th (Show Closes TODAY . . .)
The Gallery is open: Sundays, 12:00-3:00 pm*

**Volunteers are needed to help with parking cars for
BaconFest - November 2nd & 3rd,
see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

Hurricane Response

The situation:

Hurricanes continue to hit the coast of Florida, dropping heavy rains on the southeastern United States and leaving millions of people without power. As the storms move inland, it has caused dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines.

Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

What you can do: Pray

Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Give:

Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

Mail your donation:

Make checks payable to: Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Or put your donation in the offering plate marked "Hurricane