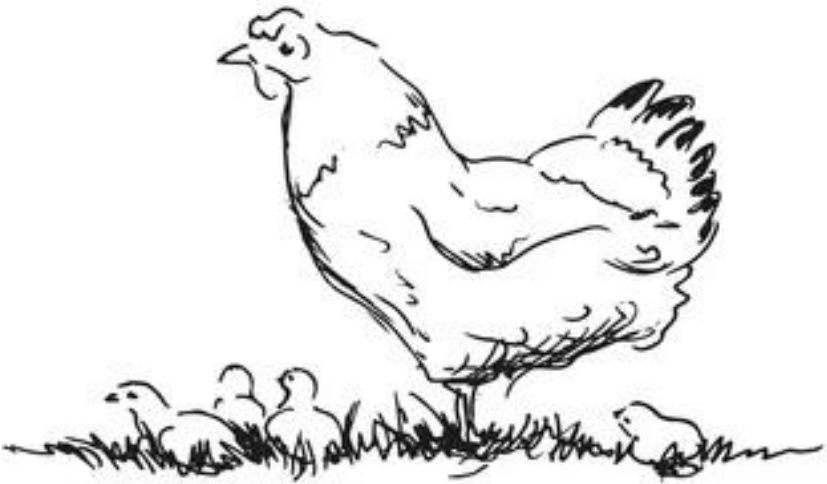


Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Second Sunday in Lent*

March 16, 2025

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**      *“What Wondrous Love” arr. Lee Sejisca*

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

... Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 834    *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

### **\*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. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur

of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”<sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## *Responsive Reading:*

## **Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup> When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my  
life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the  
temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high  
upon a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who  
surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of  
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

**<sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in  
anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O  
God of my salvation.

**<sup>10</sup>Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

**<sup>12</sup>Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living!

**<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the Lord!**

**Second Reading**

**Philippians 3:17—4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**\* Gospel**

**Luke 13:31-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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



<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sermon – The Rev. Mike Button*

### **\*Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 613 *“Thy Holy Wings”*

### **\*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. Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

You give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

*After each petition, please join in singing:*

**ELW #752 “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”**

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the words "lis-ten" and "pray-ing" hyphenated across the bar lines. The music consists of chords and melodic lines in both hands.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

A: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today’s leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations.

You are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

*Join in singing:*

**ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love.

You are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

*Join in singing:*

**ELW #752 “*Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*”**

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**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** “*Lord, Be Our Light*” by Mark Patterson

*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.

## \*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** - page 146

**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 # 472 *“Eat This Bread”*

ELW # 468 *“Around You, O Lord Jesus”*

ELW # 469 *“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”*

## \*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. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff 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: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

ASC # 1024 *"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"*



## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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2. "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW #752, Text & Music: Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Company.)
3. "Lord, Be Our Light" (from "Hear Our Prayer" Trilogy for Lent and Holy Week, by Mark Patterson, © 2019 Choristers Guild.)
4. "Eat This Bread" (ELW #472, Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier; Text & music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc., agent.)
5. "Around You, O Lord Jesus" (ELW #468, Text: Frans Mikael Franzén © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: H. Thomassón, 1569.)
6. "By Your Hand You Feed Your People" (ELW #469, Text: Susan Briehl; Music: Marty Haugen; Text & music © 2002 GIA Publications Inc.)
7. "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" (ACS #1024, Text & Music: Kenyan hymn, adapt. & arr. Greg Scheer. Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik; Eng. adapt & arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik.)

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

**Worship Assistant**–Chris Orem

**Ushers** – Cindy & Bob Black

**Reader** – Charlie Hanson

**Altar Guild** – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

**This Week at St. John's March 16<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Today** (3/16/25) – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am

**Today** (3/16/25) – Following Worship: Property – Office,  
Outreach - Chapel

**Today** (3/16/25) – Gallery Opening Today . . .12:00 - 3:00 pm

**Monday** (3/17/25) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

**Monday** (3/17/25) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Chapel

**Wednesday** (3/19/25) – Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

**Wednesday** (3/19/25) – Lenten Dinner, 6:00 pm /Worship, 7:00 pm  
@ St. John's

**Sunday** (3/23/25) –Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (3/23/25) – Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30 am

Week 16, 3/9/25 Attendance - 58

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,368.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1,971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$21,356.00
Difference Compared to Budget	+\$3,617.00

*Altar Flowers today are sponsored by  
Monica Weiss-Nolen in honor of her Aunt  
Phyllis Morrison's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.*



*Prayer List: Chuck, Vicki, Clark, Donna, Kara,  
Christine, Jessica, Janice, Donald, Bucky,  
Maryland, Derrick, Tara, Gene, Kim, Will,  
Danny, Mary, Helen, John, Carolyn, Lois Anne,  
Charles, Julia, David, Donald, Barbara, Terry,  
Jeff, Chuck, Debbie, Pastor Orem, Peggy, Tony,  
Sharon, Sarah, Arlene, Joan, Our Homebound  
Family & Friends, the St. John's Call Committee,  
and Our Future Pastor*



*Join us for Prayer Group:  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month  
@ 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room*

*The Gallery at  
St. John's presents . . .*

*"Countryside Landscapes Knolls  
and Meadow"*

*March 9th thru April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays, 12:00 – 3:00 pm*



NEPA Synod, Easton Cluster Churches invite you to . . .



Wednesday Lenten  
Light Meals and Worship  
(6:00 pm) (7:00 pm)

March 19th,

\* St. John's Lutheran Church  
(330 Ferry Street, Easton)

[Be on the lookout for a sign-up for donations  
of Soup, Bread, and Dessert]

March 26th,

\*Arndt's Lutheran Church  
(1851 Arndt Road, Easton)

April 2nd,

\*United Fellowship Lutheran  
(2115 Washington Blvd. Easton)



April 9th,

\*St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
(3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton)