

# COMMUNION



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2024**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Bath, PA**

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Mrs. Mary H.  
per the A. S. Lambert B.**

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Kathryn K. and  
Richard D. by Maryann D.**

**Flowers Presented in Memory of  
Emily Mast D. by the David M. Family**

**Bulletins Presented in Memory of Ruth and Harold H.  
by Daughter Vicky E.**

Prelude: “*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*” arr. Hayes/Gaspard  
Organist: Kevin E. Pianist: Patrice A. K.

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

\*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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

\*P: 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**

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

\*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

**\*Hymn LBW #94 - "My Song Is Love Unknown"**

8:00 am-vs. 1-2

10:15 am-vs. 1-4

**\*The Greeting**

\*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.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

\*P: O God,

**\*C: 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. Amen.**

**Anthem (10:15 am)**

*"In Communion with Me"*

arr. Mary McDonald

**First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

**Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Christ 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"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." <sup>7</sup>In 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**\*Gospel Verse** (sung)

p. 63

**“Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.”**

**\*P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**\*C:** (sung) **Glory to you, O Lord**

**\*Gospel: John 12:20-33**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

(3)

\*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

\*C: (sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children's Sermon/Sermon**

\*Hymn LBW 377 "*Lift High The Cross*"

8:00 am-vs. 1-2

\*Nicene Creed

p. 64

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*Prayers of Intercession

\*P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

\*V: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

\*C: **Hear our prayer.** (4)

\*V: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: Hear our prayer.**

\*V: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: Hear our prayer.**

\*V: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: Hear our prayer.**

\*V: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

\*V: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us including Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Lord, in your mercy,

**\*C: Hear our prayer.**

\*P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**\*C: Amen.**

### **\*The Peace**

\*P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

**\*C: And also, with you.**

### **\*Offering**

*The Offering may be dropped off at the beginning or end of the worship service. We will thank God for our blessings, including the ability to give an offering for the work of God's kingdom.*

## **Music at the Offering**

*"Break Thou Bread of Life"*

arr. Karrin Ford

Organist: Kevin E. Pianist: Patrice A. K.

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

\*P: Jesus,

**\*C: you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered 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. Amen**

### **\*The Thanksgiving**

\*P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Sanctus** (sung)

p. 69

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **\*The Words of Institution**

\*P: 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.

\*P: 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.

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**\*C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**\*Agnus Dei** (sung)

p. 72

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**\*P:** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*The bread and wine/grape juice will be distributed in the front of the church. If you would like to partake in your pew, please ask pastor to get you a pre-packaged communion set or ask an usher.*

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you onto everlasting life. Amen.

**\*Post Communion Canticle** (sung)

p. 73

**Lord, now let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:**

**A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**



**\*Prayer after Communion**

\*P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*C: **Amen.**

**\*Benediction**

\*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

\*C: **Amen.**

**\*Hymn LBW #259** *“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”*

8:00 am-vs. 1-2

**\*Dismissal**

\*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

\*C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Postlude on *“Llangloffan”*

arr. John S. Dixon

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**Assisting in Worship Today**

**Altar Guild** - June K., Carol H.

**8:00 AM - Ushers** - John & Donna F.

**Lector:** Cheryl A. - **Acolyte:** Haylee H.

**Communion Assistant:** Volunteers

**10:15 AM - Ushers** - Judy F. & Jan B.

**Lector:** Judy F. - **Acolyte:** Rowan S.

**Communion Assistant:** Betty N. & Jeannine W.

## **Contacts**

*Office Phone:* 610-837-1061

*Church Email:* [stjohnbath@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbath@gmail.com)

*Pastor Walsh:* 610-837-1061 / 484-282-0699 (emergency)

*Pastor's Email:* [pastorterrywalsh@outlook.com](mailto:pastorterrywalsh@outlook.com)

### ***Follow us on Facebook:***

St. John's church page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Johns-Lutheran-Church-120814211266763/>

Pastor Walsh's page, for information on faith in the wider world:

<https://www.facebook.com/terrence.walsh.96>

***Follow us on our website:*** [www.stjohnsbathpa.org](http://www.stjohnsbathpa.org)

Stay up to date with worship schedule changes, meeting notices, and weather cancellations by  
texting **STJOHNSBATH to 84576**  
or connect with us online at [stjohnsbath.flocknote.com](http://stjohnsbath.flocknote.com)

## **Welcome to St. John's!**

We are glad that you are here to worship with us! We are in the midst of the Lenten Season, which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends when our Lord rises from the tomb on Easter Day.

Traditionally, Lent is a time when adults were prepared for baptism, by learning the Bible and the traditions of the church. For those who are already baptized, Lent is a time to reflect on the meaning of baptism in our lives, and to recommit ourselves to following Jesus Christ as a faithful disciple. Lent is often seen as a season to give up something as part of our discipleship, or, alternately, to take up something to be a better disciple. Perhaps you might give up an unhealthy habit, or take up support of a new charity. Give up unhealthy foods, and donate any money saved to the poor. Commit yourself to reading a new devotional book before the Easter celebration. The choice of a Lenten discipline is yours to make.

You may be new to St. John's, new to the Bath area, new to Lutheran worship, or may have never before set foot in a church. Regardless how often you have sat in church we are glad to have you join us. We invite you to listen to the service, enjoy the music, and say prayers for yourself and all who are need. Have questions? Please call or email Pastor Terry.

You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461 - Sunday, March 17, 2024** - A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there. **Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, Tuesday, March 19, 2024** - Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult. **Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556, Thursday, March 21, 2024** - Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation. **Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758 - Friday, March 22, 2024** - A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

**Prayers Requested For:** Matthew A., Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis & Joe A., Amy B., Allen B., Marsha B., Josie B., Shane B., Barb B., Cory B., Dawn & Bill B., Jason C., Patty & Larry D., Barry F., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Cami Grace G., Bryson G., Janis G., Mike H., Shawn H., Lil H., Troy H., Robert H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., Dennis K., Gerry K., Mary K., Steve K., Diane L., Lee L., Ruth M., The M. Family, April Rose M., Joe N., Danielle N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Brent R., Earl & Steve S., Ethel S., Louise S., Barb S., Beth S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Ann U., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Galen W., Susan W., Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., Francis Z., and those unnamed.

***If you would like to add or remove a person from the prayer list, contact the Church Office (610-837-1061).***

# Join us for Holy Week

## **Palm Sunday – 3/24/24**

Worship 8:00 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:15 AM  
Masked Worship 11:45 AM

## **Maundy Thursday – 3/28/24**

Worship/Communion at St. John's at 7:00 PM



## **Good Friday – 3/29/24**

Joint Tenebrae Service at St. John's at 7:00 PM  
(we will welcome Christ UCC of Bath)



## **Easter Sunday – 3/31/24**

Worship/Communion 8:00 AM  
No Sunday School (Happy Easter)  
Worship/Communion 10:15 AM  
Masked Worship 11:45 AM

## Today's Announcements – Sunday, March 17, 2024

### **The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

### This Week at St. John's

3/17/2024 – Sun.	Worship/Communion	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship/Communion	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM
3/18/2024 – Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
3/19/2024 – Tues.	Council Meeting	7:00 PM
3/20/2024 – Wed.	Lenten Study	4:00 PM
3/21/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
3/24/2024 – Sun.	Worship – Palm Sunday	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM



**Back by Popular Demand the Fellowship Dinner at The Prime** will be held **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:30 PM**. Call the church office at 610-837-1061 for a reservation. (*held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.*)

**Nursery School Lottery Calendars:** Please see the box at the bottom of the stairs for an April lottery calendar to support the Nursery school. Calendars are \$10.

**Home Heating Help** - Are you or your neighbors having trouble paying your heating bill? You can get information or request help at 800-UGI-WARM.

**Thank you:** Thank you to everyone who ordered, baked, or helped with the fish dinners. We served close to 400 fish dinners! The food was delicious and the fellowship was wonderful.

**Lenten Services** continue on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Services start at 4:00 PM in the handicapped-accessible Fellowship Hall, as we discuss "What Would Jesus Say/Do About" the problems of our day. We will solicit suggestions for topics, and have a dialogue about what our Lord is calling us to do in our day. Our intent is to finish early enough for everyone to be able drive home while the sun is still shining. You are welcome to bring your own dinner with you, eat during or after our Wednesday gathering.

**Online Giving Option:** We share with you the new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation. You can give now at this website link: **<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAB8>**

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission. Thank you again for all that you do.



Scan this code to  
get the Vanco App  
on your mobile  
device

**Nursery School Enrollment 2024-2025:** Do you know someone looking for a great place to enroll their child in nursery school? Look no further and share the word, we have an amazing program and teachers here at St. John's Bath. Enrollment forms are available through Dawn Mayer at 610-837-9868 or by e-mailing [stjohnbath@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbath@gmail.com). Classes for 2, 3, and 4-year old's.

**Retraction:** The flowers presented for the week of 3/10/2024 were presented in memory of Esther F.'s birthday by her family.