

# COMMUNION



**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 3, 2024**

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

## 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 #104 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

8:00 am vs. 1-2

## **\*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: Holy God,

\*C: **Through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

**\*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 second chapter.

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

## **Gospel: John 2:13-22**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six →

years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

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

## **Children’s Sermon/Sermon**

\*Hymn WOV #699 *“Blessed Assurance”*

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: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce pollution emissions. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

\*V: You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your 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.**

*The Peace will be shared between the Pastor and Congregation.*

## **\*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:**

(8 am) *"How Great Thou Art"*

arr. Lawrence Grant

(10:15 am) *"A Communion Invitation"*

arr. Martin/Martin

## **\*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: This is 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.



**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 #532** *"How Great Thou Art"*

8:00 am vs. 1-2

**\*Dismissal**

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

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

Postlude: *"March in G"*

arr. John S. Dixon

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## **Contacts**

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*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)

### **Assisting in Worship Today**

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

**8:00 AM - Ushers** - Gloria M. & Marvin Z.

**Lector:** Kathy W. - **Acolyte:** Alexis D.

**Communion Assistant:** Kathy W & Volunteer

**10:15 AM - Ushers** - Bill H & Kim M

**Lector:** Samantha A - **Acolyte:** Josh S

**Communion Assistant:** Jim G & Bonnie V

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)

### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 - Thursday, March 7, 2024** - Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

## **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 began 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

**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., the family of Mildred G., 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



## **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 3, 2024

### **The Third Sunday in Lent**

### This Week at St. John's

3/03/2024 - 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
3/04/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
3/07/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
3/10/2024 - Sun.	Worship	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

**Lenten Fish Dinner:** The next Lenten fish dinner will be **Friday, March 15, 2024**. This meal will be take-out only. Cost is \$15, includes fish (baked or fried), baked potato, pickled cabbage, stewed tomatoes, roll & butter, and one dessert. Pick up on March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-6:00 PM.



**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. *(all dinners will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.)*

**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.

**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.

**Lenten Services:** On the Wednesdays of Lent (March 6, 13, and 20) our Lenten services will be held 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, to eat during or after our Wednesday gathering.

**News from Worship and Music:** The following names are the current members of music and worship, Richard S., Cheryl A., Bonnie V., Jeannine W., and Judy F. The next music and worship meeting is going to be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday March 13 in the choir room. If you have a comment or concern about music and worship please speak to any of the committee members.

**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.



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