



**Christ the King
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 2023**

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

**Flowers are presented In Memory of Our Grandparents
by Cindy & Bill .**

**Bulletins are presented in Honor of Our 53rd Wedding
Anniversary by Tom & Jeannine W.**

Prelude: "All Hail the Power of Jesus" arr. Cindy Berry

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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

*C: **Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*P: Merciful God,

*C: **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Righteous God,

*C: **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

*C: **Amen.**

*Hymn LBW #328 - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" (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 of power and might,

***C:** **Your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

***Gospel Verse**

p. 62

***“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia”***

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will →

answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;’⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

***Hymn LBW #530 “Jesus Shall Reign”**

***Apostle’s Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

***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) *Meditation on "Darwall's 148th"* arr. Gilbert M. Martin
(10:15 am) *"Rejoice Today"* arr: Lani Smith

***Offertory Prayer**

*P: God of good gifts,

*C: **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen**

***Prayers of Intercession**

*P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

*V: Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Lord, in your mercy,

*C: **Hear our prayer.**

*V: In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Lord, in your mercy,

*C: **Hear our prayer.**

*V: In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: In Christ we are made the people of His pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*V: Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us (*pause*). Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer**

*P: Lord, teach us to pray.

***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.**

***Benediction**

*P: The God who rules across the cosmos and speaks worlds into being, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

*C: Amen.

***Hymn LBW #170 - "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

*C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Sortie"

arr. G. F. Handel

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Assisting in Worship Today

**Altar Guild: Jeannine W. & Bonnie V.
8:00 AM - Ushers: Gloria M., Marvin Z.
Lector: John F.
Acolyte: Cooper H.**

**10:15 AM - Ushers: Logan, Rowan, Stephen S.
Lector: Jim G.
Acolyte: Paige H.**

Office Phone: 610-837-1061

Church Email: stjohnbath@gmail.com

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

Pastor's Email: 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

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us. We are now in the season of the "Sundays after Pentecost." The color of the Pentecost season is green, which leads us to think about the Pentecost season as a time of growth in our Christian faith. Throughout the summer and fall, we will read large portions of St. Matthew's Gospel, working our way from chapter 9 to 25.

On behalf of Jesus Christ, who was crucified and is now risen from the dead, we welcome you to worship. This morning we will hear the Good News as our lessons are read. We listen and sing to musical selections to worship God who is our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

We will pray for all of God's people and all of our needs. You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place.

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle Thursday, November 30, 2023 - The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Today's Announcements - Sunday, November 26, 2023

Christ the King - The Last Sunday after Pentecost

This Week at St. John's

11/26/23 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
11/27/23 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM - Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
11/28/23 - Tues.	Fellowship Dinner @ The Prime	5:30 PM
11/30/23 - Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
12/2/23 - Sat.	Vendor Fair-Benefit Nursery Sch.-FH	9:00AM-3:00PM
12/3/23 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship (Library)	11:45 AM
	Community Choir Practice	7:00 PM

Prayers Requested For: Matthew A., Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis A., Josie B., Shane B., Barb B., Cory B., Dawn & Bill B., Jason C., Patty & Larry D., the family of Jim D., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Janis G., Shawn H., Lil H., Troy H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., Claire & Dennis K., Gerry K., Mary K., Steve K., Diane L., Lee L., Jeff 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., Rosalia S., John S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Carol W., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Susan W., Dolores & Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., Francis Z.

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

Bath Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: TONIGHT at 6:00 PM at the Monocacy Creek Park. Christmas tree honoree, Mrs. **Dawn Brettle Mayer**, Director of St. John's Lutheran Church Nursery School. Festivities will take place from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner: Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the filling and thanksgiving take-out meals. Also thank you to those who donated, including Thrivent and the Bath Area Food Bank, over 150 meals were distributed and 30 full batches of filling.

Poinsettia Plants: Orders for Poinsettia plants for Christmas are **due Friday, December 1, 2023.** If you would like to order a plant in memory or in honor of someone please fill out an order form and turn it into the church office before December 1st. Plants are \$9.00. You may pick up your plant and take it home after the Christmas services.

Christmas Ingathering: The Christmas Ingathering is continued each year to brighten the holy season of Christmas for our Christian brothers and sisters who have special needs. There is a box outside of the secretary's office to place your donation. The list of items needed is on a sheet of paper on the table inside the front door. **Items need to be brought in by 12/3/23.**

Hanging of the Greens: we extend an invitation to all of you to join us in decorating the sanctuary the week of Nov 27-Dec 1. Please call the church office at 610-837-1061 if you are interested in helping.

Vendor Craft Fair/Tricky Tray: will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, December 2, 2023 9 AM to 3 PM**, food will be available for purchase. Donations for the Tricky Tray and baked goods are needed. Please contact Dawn for more information at 610-841-6729.

Save the Date: Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 pm** when the **Bath Area Community Choir** will present their holiday concert "*Christmas Fantasy*" at St. John's Lutheran Church, a free will offering will benefit the Bath Area Food Bank.

Chicken Pot Pie Take-Out: will be **Saturday, December 9th** from 4:00-6:00 PM. Pre-orders only no walk-ins. Quarts are \$12.00, Desserts are \$3.00. Orders due by Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Bath Lions Candy Cane Hunt: Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the grassy field behind the St. John's parking lot. Ages 3-12 years old welcome. Register at bathpalions@yahoo.com.

Pre-School Lottery Calendar Fundraiser: Lottery calendars are on sale now for \$10/each. The calendar must be turned in by December 31st to be valid. Pick your calendar; return the bottom portion with buyer's address and money. Checks can be made to St. Johns Bath Nursery School. Any questions, please see Dawn Mayer.

Year-End Member Contributions for 2023 must be received by the church on or before **Tuesday, December 26, 2023 by 12 Noon** to be included in your 2023 contributions to the church. Any contributions received after this date and time will be posted to your 2024 contributions. Don't delay! Thank you for supporting the financial ministry of St. John's.

New Online Giving Option: We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community. We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our 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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