



**The Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

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

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Russell K.,
by wife June 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**

***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:** **by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

***Gospel: Mark 8:31-38**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

***Hymn LBW #500** *“Faith of Our Fathers”*

8:00 am vs. 1-2

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.

***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 (only).

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

(8:00 am) “Near to the Heart of God” arr. Jonathan W. Lee

(10:15 am) “Let Us Gather in the Shadows of the Cross”
arr. Martin/Nix

*Offertory Prayer

*P: Blessed are you,

***C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth’s waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection. Bring justice to victims of crime. Bind up the wounds inflicted by violence. Guide all who investigate, and prosecute crime and uphold employees of our prison system. Rehabilitate those convicted of committing crime. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.** (6)

*V: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Send us new Christians to guide and mentor.
Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*V: We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others including Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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.**

***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 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 #231 "O Word of God Incarnate"**

8:00 am vs. 1-2

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Postlude: *"Mit Fried und Freun ich fahr dahin"*

arr. Bach

Assisting in Worship Today
Altar Guild - Judy F., Gloria M.
8:00 AM - Joe & Stephanie R.
Lector: Cheryl A. / Acolyte: Cooper H.
10:15 AM - Ushers - Paul C., Donna C.
Lector: Jim G. / Acolyte: Peyton H.

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

Contacts

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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



Upcoming Commemorations

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921, Sunday, February 25, 2024. Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis. **George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633, Friday, March 1, 2024.** An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40. **John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church, Saturday, March 2, 2024.** These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

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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.



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

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

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

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Today's Announcements - Sunday, February 25, 2024

The Second Sunday in Lent

This Week at St. John's

2/25/2024 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM
2/26/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
2/29/2024 - Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
3/01/2024 - Fri.	1 st Lenten Fish Dinner (take-out)	4:00-6:00 PM
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

Save the Date: The highly anticipated Lenten fish dinners are coming. Dates are **Friday, March 1, 2024** and **Friday, March 15, 2024**. These meals 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 is from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Easter Flowers: We have Tulip, Daffodils, Lily, and Azalea plants for Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. If you want to purchase a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one, tulips and daffodils are \$7 each, and lilies are \$10 each, and azaleas are \$13 each. Fill out an order form, turn in to the office or call (610-837-1061). Plants may be picked up after either service on Easter. Orders must be placed by **today**.



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 stjohnsbath@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.

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**

Lenten Services: On the Wednesdays of Lent (February 28, March 6, 13, and 20) our Lenten services will be 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.