



**The First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024**

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

**Flowers Presented In Honor of Claire K.'s Birthday by
Husband Dennis and Sons**

**Bulletins Presented to the Glory of Our Lord,
by A Friend of St. John's**

Prelude Meditation on “*Forty Days and Forty Nights*” arr. John S. Dixon

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 #99 - "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"**

***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, heavenly Father,

***C: in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

***Gospel Verse**

p. 83

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

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

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

***Gospel: Mark 1:9-15**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

***Nicene Creed**

p. 84

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 our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people including that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy.

***C:** Hear our prayer.

- *V: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Lord, in your mercy.
- *C: Hear our prayer.**
- *V: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Lord, in your mercy.
- *C: Hear our prayer.**
- *V: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort and heal all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Lord, in your mercy.
- *C: Hear our prayer.**
- *V: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Heal the sick. Lord, in your mercy.
- *C: Hear our prayer.**
- Here other intercessions may be offered.*
- *V: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. 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:

(8 am) *“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”*

arr. Jack Shrader

(10:15 am) *“Down in the Valley to Pray”*

arr. J. Althouse

***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**

p. 89

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

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**

p. 92

***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, 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**

p. 93

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 #230** *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Postlude: *“Postlude in E”*

arr. C. Rossini

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103275. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License A-740897

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild - Gloria M., Judy F.

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

Lector: Cheryl A. - **Acolyte:** Payton K.

Communion Assistant: Kathy W. & John F.

10:15 AM - Ushers - Jim G. & Joe A.

Lector: Bonnie V. - **Acolyte:** Ethan B.

Communion Assistant: Samantha A. & Jeannine W.

Contacts

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

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

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

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546, Sunday, February 18, 2024. Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms. **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156, Friday, February 23, 2024.** Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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., Jamie B., Dawn & Bill B., Jason C., Patty & Larry D., Barry F., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Cami Grace 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/Communion 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

Today's Announcements - Sunday, February 18, 2024

The First Sunday in Lent

This Week at St. John's

2/18/2024 - 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
2/19/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
2/20/2024 - Tues.	Council Meeting	7:00 PM
2/23/2024 - Wed.	Lenten Study	4:00 PM
	Music & Worship Meeting	6:00 PM
2/22/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	8:00 AM
2/25/2024 - Sun.	Worship	9:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:15 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	10:15 AM
	Worship	11:45 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	

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 on March 1st, 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 June Klinger at 610-264-0451 for a reservation. *(all dinners will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.)*

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 February 25.



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. 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 (February 21 & 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.

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.

Music and Worship Meeting: The next meeting is set for this coming Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM; all are welcome.



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