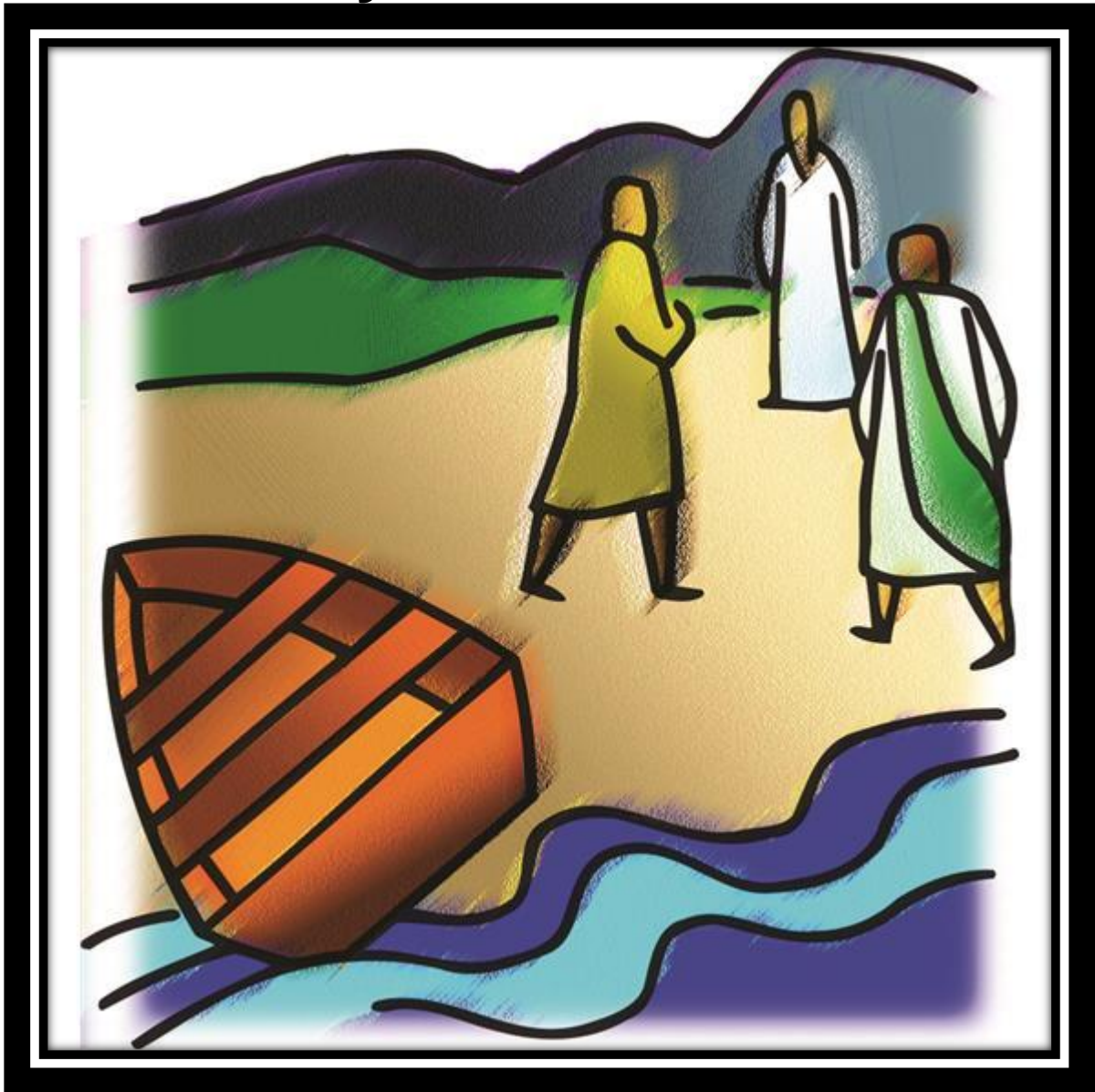


Holy Communion



**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 21, 2024**

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

Prelude: "Andante Religioso"

arr. Otis Gruber

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 opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

*C: **Amen.**

*P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Everlasting God,

*C: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to confront sin. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

*P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

*C: **Amen.**

*Hymn LBW #503 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*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.**

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse 1

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

(Refrain)

Verse 2

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessings and glory are his.

(Refrain)

***Prayer of the Day**

*P: Almighty God,

***C: By grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.**

Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Verse 3

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

(Refrain)

Verse 4

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

(Refrain)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

***Gospel Verse**

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

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

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

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

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.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

*Hymn LBW #290 *“There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy”*

***Apostles 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

***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

"Nets of Love"

arr. Jordan/Simpson

***Offertory Prayer**

***P:** God our provider,

***C:** by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

***P:** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

- *V: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- *V: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- *V: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- *V: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them as did the martyr, Agnes. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- *V: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. Bring to us new disciples. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- Here other intercessions may be offered.**
- *V: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
- *C: hear our prayer.**
- *P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- *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.**

***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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

p. 69

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

***Agnus Dei**

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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

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. 72

***Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell everyone what he has done.***

***Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with
shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Prayer after Communion**

*P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

*C: Amen.

***Benediction**

*P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.

*C: Amen.

***Hymn LBW #649 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

***Dismissal**

***P:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

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

Postlude: “*Joyous Postlude*”

arr. Chester Nordman

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild - Judy F., Gloria M.

9:00 AM - Ushers – John & Sarajane P.

Lector: Samantha A. / Acolyte: Volunteer

Communion Assistant: Linda H., Samantha A.

Our annual congregational meeting: will be held TODAY, after the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Please plan to join us on this very important day. The proposed 2024 budget was mailed; if you need a copy, please call the church office. In the event of inclement weather, the congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024. The same schedule will apply: one service at 9 AM with no Sunday school session. See you there!

Contacts

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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 in the midst of the Epiphany Season, which runs from the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th until "Shrove Tuesday" or "Fat Tuesday." In 2024, Shrove Tuesday will be on February 13th. The Epiphany season teaches us about Jesus revealing himself to the world. The word "epiphany" means a manifestation or a showing forth. In the Epiphany season we remember the coming of the Wise Men to see the baby Jesus, the baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River, and the earliest days of Jesus' ministry. Together we will worship our Lord as the disciples are called by Jesus and as the world hears Jesus' calling each of us to lives of love, forgiveness and service.

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? Can't find the right page? Please see Pastor Terry or ask any of the ushers. You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place.

Upcoming Commemorations

Agnes, martyr, died around 304 - Sunday, January 21, 2024 - Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time. **Conversion of Paul - Thursday, January 25, 2024** - The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders. **Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries - Friday, January 26, 2024** - These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake. **Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith - Saturday, January 27, 2024** - Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Today's Announcements - Sunday, January 21, 2024
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

This Week at St. John's

1/21/2024 - Sun.	Worship/Communion	9:00 AM
	Congregational Meeting	
1/22/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
1/24/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
1/27/2024 - 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

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., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Cami Grace G., Janis G., 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., 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., Beth S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Ann U., Carol W., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Galen W., Susan W., the family of Dolores Y., 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).***

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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