



**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 12, 2023**

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

**Bulletins are presented In Honor of All Those Who  
Have Served in Our Military**

Prelude: "Prelude in G"

arr. J. S. Bach

## 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 #627 - "My Lord, What A Morning"

### \*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 justice and love,

\*C: You illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3a</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” <sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have →

chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”  
<sup>23</sup>He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you,  
and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup>The people  
said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will  
obey.” <sup>25</sup>So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and  
made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

## **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about  
those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who  
have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose  
again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who  
have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that  
we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no  
means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a  
cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of  
God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will  
rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in  
the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we  
will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with  
these words.

## **\*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 25:1-13**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be  
like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the  
bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When  
the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the  
wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was  
delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight  
there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to →

meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

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

### **Children’s Sermon/Sermon**

**\*Hymn LBW #355** *“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”*

### **\*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) “*Draw Me Nearer*” arr. J. W. Lee  
(10:15 am) “*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning*” arr: S. DeCesare

### \*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: O God, for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: O God, for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: O God, for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under/unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: O God, for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

\*V: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. 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 #315 - "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

**\*Dismissal**

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

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

Postlude: "Fugue in G"

arr. J. S. Bach

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**Assisting in Worship Today**

**Altar Guild: Jeannine W. & Bonnie V.**

**8:00 AM - Ushers: Tegi O., Wanda F.**

**Lector: Cheryl A.**

**Acolyte: Haylee H.**

**10:15 AM - Ushers: Bill and Cindy F.**

**Lector: Judy F.**

**Acolyte: Rowan S.**

*Office Phone: 610-837-1061*

*Church Email: [stjohnbath@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbath@gmail.com)*

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

*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)***

**We are hiring:** The Sexton job is officially open and waiting for the right person. Do you know someone who can mow grass, shovel snow, and turn the lights on? For a job description, please tell them to give the office a call at 610-837-1061.

**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. (7)



## **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**

**Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231, Friday, November 17, 2023** - Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

**Today's Announcements - Sunday, November 12, 2023**  
**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

**This Week at St. John's**

11/12/23 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Lions Toy Raffle	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
11/13/23 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM - Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
11/16/23 - Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
11/19/23 - 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., 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., the family of Earle L., Ruth M., The M. Family, April Rose M., Joe N., the family of Louise N., Danielle N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Tina R., 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., the family of Nancy W., Cecile W., Susan W., the family of Frank W., the family of Martin J. Y. Jr., 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).***



**Thanksgiving Day Dinner: Wed., Nov. 22, 2023, a pre-plated meal can be picked up from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall.** This is a take-out event only, and pre-orders only, no walk-ins. The dinners are available for a free will offering. Shut-ins: please call the office for meal acquisition options. Filling trays will be available to purchase as well; fully cooked, ready to re-heat, ¼ tray for \$10; ½ tray for \$20; full tray for \$40. **Orders due today, Sun., Nov. 12.**

**Community Thanksgiving Service: Tuesday, November 21, 2023.** Emmanuel's Lutheran Church 3175 Valley View Dr., Bath, PA will be hosting this wonderful service. Refreshments will be offered after the service. Worship service begins at 7:00 PM. A goodwill offering will be collected to benefit the Bath Area Food Bank.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.**

**2023 Red Beet Results:** The gracious and hard-working team of cooks completed this year's red beets with whopping records! They cooked 2,000 lbs. of beets, used 267 lbs. of sugar, 28 gallons of vinegar, and 14.5 lbs. of salt. Their efforts took 4 weeks to complete. Producing 957 quarts and 295 pints of beets. They also jarred 40 quarts and 15 pints of red beet juice. The total cost to complete this task is \$1,299.62. AMAZING job by everyone on the Red Beet Team!

**Bath Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Monocacy Creek Park. Christmas tree honoree, Mrs Dawn Brettley Mayer, Director of St. John's Lutheran Church Nursery School. Festivities will take place from 5:00-7:00 PM.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.