



**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 28, 2024**

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

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Robert & Elsie B. by  
the Congregation of St. John's**

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Departed Loved  
Ones by the Richard Y. Family**

**Bulletins Presented In Memory of Paul & Rachel H. by  
the H., B., & B. Family**

Prelude: "Largo"

arr. Zetterwall/Handel

## 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 WOV #737 "There Is a Balm In Gilead"

### \*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.**

\*P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**\*C:** *Lord God, heavenly king, have mercy on us. You are seated  
almighty God and Father: We at the right hand of the Father;  
worship you, we give you thanks, receive our prayer. For you alone  
we praise you for your glory. Lord are the Holy One, you alone are the  
Jesus Christ, only Son of the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in  
take away the sin of the world; the glory of God the Father. Amen*

**\*Prayer of the Day**

\*P: Compassionate God,

**\*C:** **You gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

<sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the →

necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**\*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. Mark, the first chapter.

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

**Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to →

destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”<sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”<sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.<sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”<sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

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

## **Children’s Sermon/Sermon**

**\*Hymn LBW #90 - “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

**\*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

(8:00 am) “*There is a Balm in Gilead*”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

(10:15 am) “*Lord of all Being*”

arr. David Paxton

### \*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: Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: Compassionate God, we pray for all in need; heal the sick and suffering; the hungry, those affected by war, and all who feel lonely. Accompany those undergoing dialysis, those in need of kidney transplants, those recovering from kidney transplants, and all with kidney insufficiency. Lord, in your mercy,

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

\*V: Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all our gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of mercy, witness and love. Lord, in your mercy,

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

\*V: Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives, especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. 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.**

### \*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 #559 - *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

### \*Dismissal

\*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Postlude: *"Postludium in F"*

arr. Louise E. Stairs

### **Assisting in Worship Today**

**Altar Guild - Judy F., Gloria M.**

**8:00 AM - Jim & Kathy N.**

**Lector: Cheryl A. / Acolyte: Alexis D.**

**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 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.

### **Contacts**

*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)



**Upcoming Commemorations**

**Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274, Sunday, January 28, 2024** - One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter. **Presentation of Our Lord - Friday, February 2, 2024** - Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel. **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865 - Saturday, February 3, 2024** - A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

**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., the family of Dolores 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., 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).***

**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

**Today's Announcements - Sunday, January 28, 2024**  
**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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

1/28/2024 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship (Library)	11:45 AM
1/29/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
2/01/2024 - Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
2/04/2024 - 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

**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.

**Save the Date: The highly anticipated Lenten fish dinners** are coming. Dates are Friday, March, 1, 2024 and Friday, March 15, 2024. Order forms will be available soon.

**Music and Worship Meeting:** The next meeting is set for Sunday, February 13, 2024 after the 6:00 PM, all are welcome.

**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](mailto:stjohnbath@gmail.com). Classes for 2, 3, and 4-year old's.

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS

a part of  
our Flock!



*Keep in touch with us via  
email and text!*



TEXT  
STJOHNSBATH  
TO 84576



OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

[stjohnsbath.flocknote.com](http://stjohnsbath.flocknote.com)

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at [flocknote.com/txt](http://flocknote.com/txt).