



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024**

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

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Vera N.
by Husband, Jim**

**Flowers Presented In Memory of Emory F.'s
Birthday By the Family**

**Bulletins presented in honor of Colton's baptism by
Godparents Jordan & Marisa M., Faith S. & Robert B.**

Prelude: "Meditation"

arr. Lloyd Larson

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: Rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, →

out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

***Gospel Verse** (sung)

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

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

Gospel: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(3)

Children's Sermon/Sermon

Baptism (10:15 am)

see insert

***Hymn LBW #425 "O God of Mercy, God of Light"**

8:00 am vs. 1-2

10:15 am vs. 1-4

***Nicene Creed (8:00 am)**

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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.

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) *"I Know Whom I Have Believed"*

arr. Matt Schinske

(10:15 am) *"The Holy Heart"*

arr. Mary McDonald

*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: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love including Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Heal all who have chronic illness, pain and are sick. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.** (5)

*V: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*V: Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. 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 #448** *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"*

8:00 am vs. 1-2

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Postlude: *"Postlude in C"*

arr. Rossini

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild – June K., Carol H.

8:00 AM - Tegi O. & Wanda F.

Lector: John F. / Acolyte: Gabrielle P.

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

Lector: Jim G. / Acolyte: Alexis D.

Upcoming Commemorations

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society, Sunday, March 10, 2024 - Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. **Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604, Tuesday, March 12, 2024** - Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

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.

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

Today's Announcements - Sunday, March 10, 2024

This Week at St. John's

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

3/10/2024 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study/Confirmation	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM
3/11/2024 - Mon.	Food Bank Prep.	9:00 AM
	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
3/12/2024 – Tues.	Food Bank Distribution	9:30-11:00 AM
	Food Bank Distribution	6:00-7:00 PM
3/13/2024 - Wed.	Music & Worship Meeting	6:00 PM
3/14/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
3/15/2024 - Fri.	2 nd Lenten Fish Dinner (take-out)	4:00-6:00 PM
3/17/2024 - 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

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.



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

News from Worship and Music: The following names are the current members of music and worship, Richard S., Cheryl A., Bonnie V., Jeannine W., and Judy F. The next music and worship meeting is going to be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday March 13 in the choir room. If you have a comment or concern about music and worship please speak to any of the committee members.

Back by Popular Demand the Fellowship Dinner at The Prime: will be held **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:30 PM.** Call the church office at 610-837-1061 for a reservation. (*held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.*)

Lenten Services continue: Wednesdays, March 13 and 20, 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 to 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.

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.

Save the Date: There's one more Lenten fish dinner this year: **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 15th, from 4:00-6:00 PM. Help is needed Thursday and Friday come be part of the kitchen crew.

(10)

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 Hoff, Robert Hujsa, Chuck Humphrey, Scott & Heather Humphrey, 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).

(10)

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

Joint 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