January 21, 2024 10:45 a.m.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

North Versailles, Pennsylvania

A Place for Everyone



A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor



Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church!

We are happy to have you with us today!

- You will find the entire worship service printed on the following pages. Words spoken or sung by the people are **in bold type.** Explanations of the structure and content of the service are *written like this*. Large print bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby).
- When asked to stand, please do so only as you are able and comfortable.
- At St. John's, we practice an open table for communion. All who seek God from any tradition or denomination are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer to have a blessing instead of communion, come forward and cross your arms over your chest or ask the pastor for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you have an alcohol sensitivity you may receive bread alone. If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.
- Children are always a welcome part of worship at St. John's, and the "Sermon for Young Disciples" is especially for them. You are invited to send (or bring) little ones to the front of the sanctuary at the appropriate time. Children's bulletins are available in the narthex (lobby) providing activities based on today's scripture readings.
- If you need to step out of the sanctuary with your child(ren) during worship, please know that you will still be able to hear the service from the **Narthex** (lobby). If you wish, you may also make use of the un-staffed **Nursery Room**, where you can also hear the service. You and your child can also use the **Prayground** which is in the front of the church on the left (streetside). There are drawing materials, quiet toys, and seats for children and adults.
- St. John's records and shares our worship services as a ministry to those who are unable to join us in person. Please be aware that videography, livestreaming, and other **recording** may be in progress during this service, and that we sometimes feature photos of church activities on our website and social media.
- **Hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher to enhance your worship experience.

January 21, 2024 10:45 a.m. 3rd Sunday after Epíphany

Worship begins with a chance to prepare our hearts and minds to encounter God. Turn off your electronic devices and bring your conversations to an end.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Quietly center your heart and mind for worship.

All may make the sign of the cross +, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We stand, as able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

We stand facing the baptismal font, remembering that we have been claimed as God's children

We have a chance to lay before God all that has happened this past week and to receive God's gift of a fresh start.

We stand, as able.

We turn to face the processional cross continually facing it on its way to the front of the church.

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end less song;
- ong; a bove earth's lam-en ta tion, rife, I hear that mu-sic ring ing.
- 2 Through all the tu mult and the strife,
 - The Lord my Sav-ior liv eth.
- What though my joys and com-forts die?
 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
 - t, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth,how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, 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

A reading from Jonah.

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.

The word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a onesentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should

God have mercy?"

PSALTER: Psalm 62:5-12

We recite one of the ancient scriptures found in the Bible. Read responsively.

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however. want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We stand as if to welcome Jesus himself into our midst for the reading of the gospel, a message of good news from Jesus.





GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O LORD.

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore Tú has venido a la orilla

We stand, as able.



Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

Spanish and English text and music © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Throughout history, Christians have presented the basic beliefs of the church in documents called creeds.

We respond to the good news presented in the scriptures and sermon by reciting one of the church's creeds, proclaiming our faith in the God who creates us, saves us, and makes us to be holy people.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

We pray about what is happening in the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We kneel as able, or sit. A brief silence.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

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. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martvrdom 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.

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. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them as the martyr, Agnes, ministered to victims of sexual abuse. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially those we name before you now... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

Preparing for receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we make sure there are no disagreements or grudges within the gathered group.

The peace of the LORD be with you always. **And also with you.**

We sit.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Fellowship Pads and Offering

During the offering, we pass the fellowship pad to each person in the pew. Print your name and check the appropriate blocks, especially if communing. As the pad returns to its place by the center aisle, note the names of other worshippers, and greet them after the Service.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "You Are My Witness"

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



We stand and sing a song of joy and hope as the congregation's gifts to God are brought forward including bread and wine that we will share in Holy Communion.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We stand as able.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The pastor leads us in singing or speaking these joyful words.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

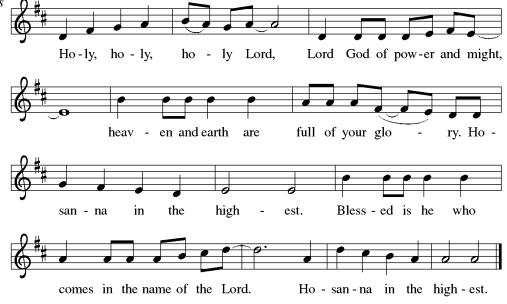
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

This song which combines words sung by angels in heaven and words sung about Jesus on earth, is based upon Isaiah 6: 3 and Matthew 21:



Holy, holy, holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor offers thanks for the many ways God has blessed us throughout history.

After describing God at work through history we use words spoken by Jesus at the last supper that he had with his disciples.

In the meantime we are reminded that we are called to work and make God's will a reality in our world.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus teaches this prayer to his disciples in chapter six of Matthew's gospel. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion is distributed by intinction.

Come forward by the center aisle. Gluten free wafers are available.

After receiving the wafer, you may dip it partially into the wine before eating it.

You may eat just the wafer as Christ is fully present in each element.

Let an usher know of your need for communion to be brought to you.

Extend your hands if you wish to receive and keep your hands folded if you want only a blessing. Parents should indicate if the children receive.

Gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION SONGS

During the distribution we sing "Lamb of God" and hymn ELW 624.

The witness of John the Baptist in John 1:29 becomes our witness and prayer as we receive Jesus in the communion meal.

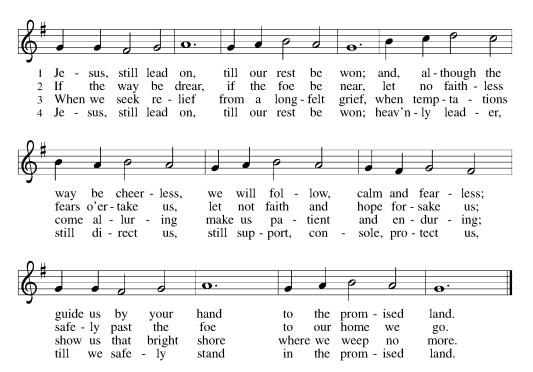


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the





Jesus, Still Lead On



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620-1701

We stand as able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. Amen.

In preparation for departure, we turn as the cross is carried past us and face the back of the church.

SENDING SONG

ELW 805







hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home. and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace; for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra tion your grace has made us strong; not with swords loud clash - ing, nor stir-ring roll of drums, Your lift - ed cross is o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917 Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

DISMISSAL

Be bold, be humble, be kind. Be generous, be aware, be a force for good. Shine the light of love into all the dark corners you meet this week.

Thanks be to God.

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the narthex to welcome guests and to visit with one another.

Offering Envelopes: If you've not yet done so, please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes. They are on a table in the parthex.

<u>Annual Congregation Meeting</u>: The annual Congregation meeting and luncheon is planned for January 28 after worship. The meeting and the luncheon will take place in Miller Hall. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share!

<u>Bell Choir:</u> Bell Choir will meet on Monday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. for the annual Bell Cleaning Party! Feel free to bring a snack to share!

Bulletin of Reports: Copies of the 2023 Bulletin of Reports are on the table in the narthex. Please only take one copy per family.

<u>Altar Guild</u>: Altar Guild training will continue next week, January 28 and February 4. We meet in the library at 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity, as well as current members of the Altar Guild are encouraged to attend. If you are curious about the things on the altar and why they are there, feel free to attend as well – no obligation!

2024 Flower Chart: The 2024 Flower Chart is posted in the office, and the 2024 order forms are on the credenza in the narthex. The price of the flowers has gone up and is now **\$40.00** per Sunday.

MA's Pantry Items: The Mission Outreach committee is reminding you to include items for MA's Pantry each time you do your own food shopping. The distribution dates for February are 2/3 and 2/17, and the request for February is cereal and other wholesome, non-perishable breakfast foods. Please help fill our collection box to overflowing!

<u>The Altar Flowers</u> are sponsored to the Glory of God by Bill and Glenda Miller in memory of Bill's mother, Linda.

In Worship Today:

Greeters: Bev Motichak; Bonnie Cowan Worship Assistant: Chuck Schaller

Acolyte: Rachel Motichak; Brenda Neundorf

Head Usher: Ed Ward

Ushers: Heather and Simon Thomas **Coffee Fellowship**: Sarah Lundie

In Worship Next Week - 1/28/24

Greeters: Rick and Cindy Luke

Worship Assistant: Marlene Gumbert

Acolyte: Owen Thomas Head Usher: Ken Hendrata Ushers: Karan and John Cehlar Coffee Fellowship: Debi Maurizi

IMPORTANT DATES

This Week:

* Today, Jan. 21	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Adult Coffee and Conversation Sunday School Altar Guild Training Traditional Worship
* Mon., Jan. 22	6:30 – 9:00 PM 7:00 PM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall Bell Choir
* Tues., Jan. 23	7:00 PM	Christian Ed via Zoom
* Thurs., Jan. 25	7:30 PM	Choir
* Sat., Jan. 27	9:00 – 11:00 AM 12:00 – 6:00 PM	12 Step Group Private Party – Miller Hall

Coming Up:

* Sun., Jan. 28 Annual Congregation Meeting and Luncheon	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM After Worship	Adult Coffee and Conversation Sunday School Altar Guild Training Traditional Worship Congregation Meeting
* Mon., Jan. 29	6:30 – 9:00 PM 7:00 PM	12 Step Group – Miller Hall Bell Choir
★ Wed., Jan. 31	3:00 – 6:00 PM	St. Afterschool
* Thurs., Feb. 1	7:30 PM	Choir
* Sat., Feb. 3	9:00 – 11:00 AM	12 Step Group
* Sun., Feb 4	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Adult Coffee and Conversation Sunday School Altar Guild Training Traditional Worship

We Remember in Our Prayers

You are invited to use this page in your devotion and prayer time.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

We pray without ceasing for an end to the conflicts and humanitarian crises in the Middle East, Ukraine, South Sudan, and other countries. We ask God to make us instruments of peace, reconciliation, and justice in the world wherever there is turmoil and suffering. We pray for the vital work we do together through Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Federation, Church World Service, and other partners. Amen.

Adapted from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Nancy Cutler, health issues.

Linda Hoffman-Charlett, depression and anxiety.

Pam Gordon, lung cancer, (sister of Joan Berresford).

Ruth Grbach, recovering at home.

Tim Hess, recovering at home.

on- going prayers.

Luca Iera, 9 yr. old with brain cancer; (family friend of Debi Maurizi).

Marie Johns, recovering at home. Sally, Marty, and Samantha Kerchner, Julia Leader, recovering at home from a fall. Steve Melnyk, heart and breathing issues; (friend of Cyndee Degelman). Pastor Kimberly, ongoing health concerns.

Parker Sharp, recovering at home from asthma and RSV, (grandson of Debbie Sharp).

Dee Simon, health issues, at home.

Dotty Sites, rehab – Redstone Greensburg.

Ruthie Smith, health concerns.

Fran Thompson, knee and ankle issues.

- [⊕] We pray that peace can be restored to the people of Ukraine and Russia and to the Middle East.

Names in bold are new or updated this week.

To have friends or loved ones placed on the prayer list, contact the church office by email or phone; complete the blue prayer list form found on the table in the lobby; or complete the form on the website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com. If appropriate, include a brief reason and relationship. This list is cleared and updated monthly.



St. John's Lutheran Church exists
to nurture people of all ages
on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ,
to support those in need,
and to reach out into the community
with God's healing and love.

유 유 유

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway, Pastor

kgreway@stjohnsnorthversailles.com 412-267-7753 cell

Debra Maurizi – Church Secretary Derek Schofield – Director of Music Ryan Seymour - Custodian



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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For more information, please visit our website at stjohnsnorthversailles.com Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stjohnnorthversailles