



# ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN † CHURCH

501 Chestnut Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
Phone: 610-965-9885  
[www.stjohnsemmaus.org](http://www.stjohnsemmaus.org)

St. John's is a congregation of the Lehigh Mission District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

- MINISTERS ..... The Baptized People of St. John's
- PASTOR ..... The Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens
- MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR ..... Timothy M. Ginder
- PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR ..... Denise Mill
- PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT ..... Mary Racek
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ..... Barbara E. Walck
- BOOKKEEPER ..... Anna Galante
- CUSTODIAN ..... Brian P. Dunton
- PASTOR EMERITUS ..... The Rev. Fred S. Foerster

**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We pray that as God speaks to us in worship we will be nurtured in Christian faith and equipped for our life of serving love and justice in the world.

**St. John's Prayer Chain** members pray for your concerns confidentially each day for a week. Request prayers by contacting the Church Office ([info@stjohnsemmaus.org](mailto:info@stjohnsemmaus.org) or 610-965-9885) or coordinator, Faith Drescher ([fdresch@ptd.net](mailto:fdresch@ptd.net) or 610- 966-5321).

**Let us pray . . .**

for our ELCA and our Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton;  
for our Northeastern PA Synod and our Bishop, The Rev. Christopher deForest;  
for our Lehigh Mission District and our Dean, The Rev. Nelson Quinones.

### **Stewardship of the Earth**

**The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.**

C=Congregation A=Assisting Minister P=Presiding Minister R=Individual Response

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## *PRELUDE*

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER*

*The assembly stands.*

## *CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

*The presiding minister invites the assembly into the confession.*

P Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive 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.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

**GATHERING SONG    “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us”    Hymn 358**  
**(vs. 1,2,4)**

*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** Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14**

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*After the reading:*

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

**Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19**

*I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

**13 I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

**14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.**

**15 Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

**16 O LORD, truly I am your servant;**

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**17 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

**18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,**

**19 in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

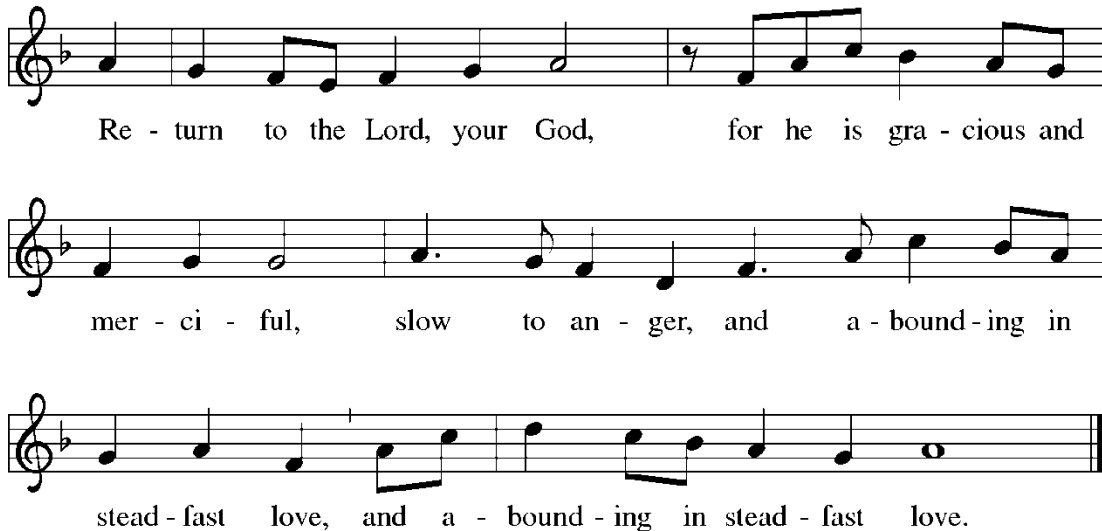
*After the reading:*

**A The word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

*The story of the Last Supper in John's gospel presents a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere. Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.*

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not

my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31b</sup> "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

*SERMON*

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

*Silence for reflection*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

**Hymn 347**



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, enthroned in the majesty of heaven, who, when you came forth from God, made yourself as one who serves; we adore you because you laid aside the garment of your glory, and girded yourself with the lowliest humility and ministered to your disciples, washing their feet. Teach us to understand what you have done and to follow your example; deliver us from pride, jealousy, and ambition, and make us ready to be subject to one another, and with lowliness to serve one another for your sake.

P Lord, make us instruments of your peace! Where there is hatred:

**C Let me sow love.**

P Where there is injury:

**C Let me sow pardon.**

P Where there is discord:

**C Let me sow union.**

P Where there is doubt:

**C Let me sow faith.**

P Where there is despair:

**C Let me sow hope.**

P Where there is darkness:

**C Let me sow light.**

P Where there is sadness:

**C Let me sow joy.**

P O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled,

**C as to console.**

P To be understood,

**C as to understand.**

P To be loved,

**C as to love.**

P For it is in giving,

**C that we receive.**

P It is in pardoning,

**C that we are pardoned.**

P And it is in dying,

**C that we are born to eternal life.**

P We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin,  
and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

### PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying  
"Peace be with you" or similar words.*

### ANTHEM

Adult Choir

### HYMN

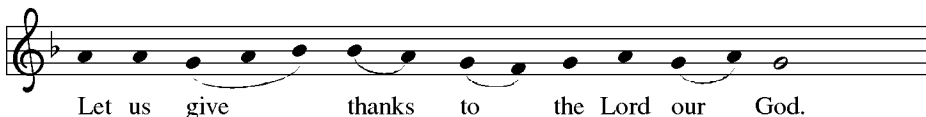
"As the Grains of Wheat" (vs. 1)

Hymn 465

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



P 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,  
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.  
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,  
transforming death into 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:



P On 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.

**C Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and 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**

### *COMMUNION*

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*The assembly is seated.*

***First Communion*** (see insert)

### **THE COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery.*

*Those who for reasons of health do not drink wine, commune fully when receiving only the bread. In partaking of either element (bread or wine), the whole Christ is received. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome at the altar to receive a blessing.*

*To receive the Sacrament, please follow the direction of an usher to approach the altar via the center aisle. Take a cup from the tray near the baptismal font. Proceed up the steps and around the altar. After you have received the bread and wine, exit through the side rooms, place the communion cup on the tray and re-enter the nave.*

*Persons who are not able to come to the altar are invited to sit in the first pew on the pulpit side where the Pastor will commune you. Please notify an usher.*

*The assembly sings the following during communion:*

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

#### *PRAYER*

A Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

*The assembly kneels or sits.*

#### *THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR*

Psalm 22 (spoken by the Pastor)

Stripping the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands. There is no benediction.

Please remain as long as you wish to be in prayer with the Lord this night. When you are ready to leave, do so in silence, respecting those who remain in prayer.

The omission of benedictions at the end of the liturgies of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday indicate their continuity with each other and with the Vigil of Easter, one celebration of the paschal mystery of our redemption.

+

Our **Holy Week** journey continues tomorrow with two times offered for **Good Friday, April 7** worship – **12:00 noon and 7:30 pm.**

On **Easter Day, April 9** we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Services will be at **8:00 & 10:30 am.** No Sunday School classes will be held.

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