



# 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.

## Second Sunday of Lent March 13, 2022

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

- 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).

**Please remember** hospitalized members and friends of St. John's in your prayers of concerns and with a card.

**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.

*“Father, show us the gifts and talents you have given us. Let us learn to use them for Your Glory.”*

1 Peter 4:10

☒=Congregation

☒=Assisting Minister

☒=Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

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

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☒ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☒ God for whom we wait,

☒ **in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

☐ God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

☑ **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG*

*“Beautiful Savior”*

Hymn 838

*The assembly stands to sing.*

## Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*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.**

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



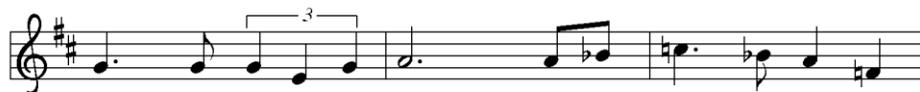
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Final refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY*

☞ God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# **WORD**

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

## **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

*After the reading:*

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **RESPONSIVE READING:**

## **Psalm 27**

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon  
the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will  
sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message - "Seek my face."**

**Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my  
salvation.

<sup>10</sup>**Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 3:17--4:1

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### *After the reading:*

- A** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### *GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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- The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
- Glory to you, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 13:31-35**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

### *After the reading:*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### SERMON

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Hymn 697

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

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## *APOSTLES' CREED*

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **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.**

## *PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

☐ Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**☩ Amen.**

### *PEACE*

**☩** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**☩ And also with you.**

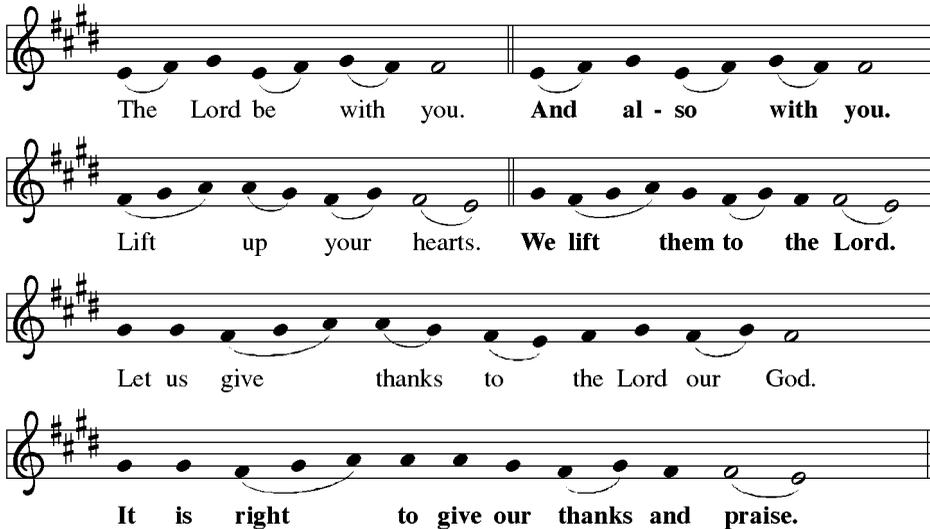
*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

*The assembly remains standing.*

# MEAL

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

## *GREAT THANKSGIVING*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

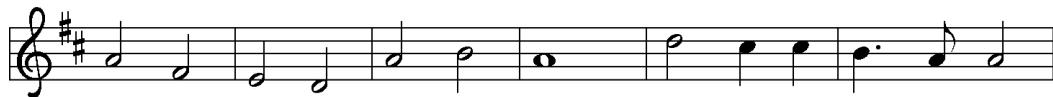
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☐ 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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

☐ 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.

☐ 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

**P** God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*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.*

*If you are viewing online worship, we invite you to participate in communion in your own home as the Pastor shares communion with you.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER

**A** Blessed Jesus,  
in this rich meal of grace,  
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.  
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope  
to a world in need.

**C** **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## *BLESSING*

☐ You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
✝ bless you this day and always.  
**Amen.**

## *THREE-FOLD AMEN*



## *SENDING SONG*

*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

Hymn 324

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

### *DISMISSAL*

**A** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### *POSTLUDE*

### **Liturgical Texts and Music**

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