



# ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN † CHURCH

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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.

## **Third Sunday of Lent** **March 12, 2023**

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

- 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.

*Your stewardship has the potential to influence lives, provide hope to others, and make an eternal difference.*

C=Congregation

A=Assisting Minister

P=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*

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**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.

**Amen.**

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

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

P Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

P Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The assembly stands to sing.


**GATHERING SONG      “Glorious Things of You are Spoken”      Hymn 647**

*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.**


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:*

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

*After the reading:*

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING:

## Psalm 95

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup>**“Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’ ”

## SECOND READING

## Romans 5:1-11

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's

love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

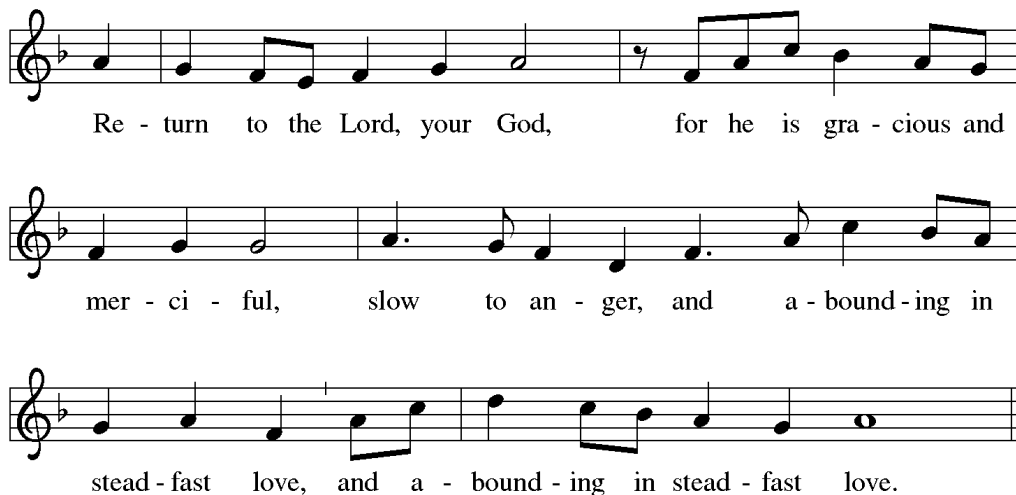
*After the reading:*

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 4:5-42

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."<sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."<sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"<sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the



people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

***After the reading:***

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”**

**Hymn 335**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

C **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*

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

### *PEACE*

P The peace of the Lord 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.*

*An Offering of Song may be presented by the Choir at this time.*

**HYMN**

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

**Hymn 465**

## **MEAL**

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

### *GREAT THANKSGIVING*

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

**C Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*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 directions of an usher to the front of the church via the center aisle. Receive the host from the pastor. Step to the side and take an empty cup from the tray, then receive the wine from the Communion Assistant. Return to your pew via the side aisle, placing your used cup in the waste basket.*

*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.*

*During this period of online worship, we invite you to participate in communion in your own home as the Pastor shares communion with you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

**HYMN 484**

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

C **Amen.**

*PRAYER*

A Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

*BLESSING*

P God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

*THREE-FOLD AMEN*



**SENDING SONG**

**“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”**

**HYMN 618**

*DISMISSAL*

A Go in peace. Serve in love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*POSTLUDE*

**Liturgical Texts and Music**

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