

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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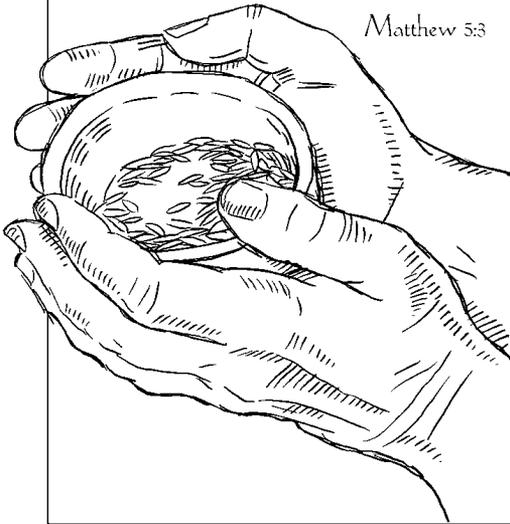
The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**January 29, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Blessed are the poor in  
spirit, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3



St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North America Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month and on Festival Sundays. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

*Prayer upon entering God's House:*

*Father in heaven, from whom alone come life and freedom, deepen our understanding and faith during our worship of You to the end that we may truly follow Your Holy will in our lives. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Meditation"*

*Hollins*

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**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 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

**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

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

*LBW 90*

**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



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



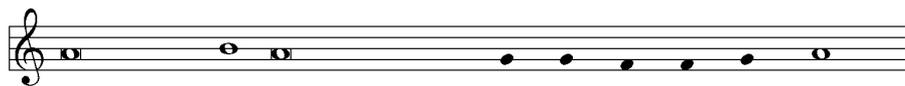
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

☩ 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.

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.

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

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with Your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord.

**C** Amen

**BELL ANTHEM:**

*"Shine, Jesus Shine"*

*arr. Cota*

**FIRST LESSON:****MICAH 6:1-8**

**A** The First Lesson is from the sixth chapter of Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**A** Here ends the reading.

**PSALM:****PSALM 15**

LORD, who may dwell in Your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon Your holy hill?

**<sup>2</sup>Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,  
who speaks the truth from his heart,**

<sup>3</sup>there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend;  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

**<sup>4</sup>In his sight the wicked is rejected,  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>He has sworn to do no wrong  
and does not take back his word.

**<sup>6</sup>He does not give his money in hope of gain,  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

<sup>7</sup>Whoever does these things  
shall never be overthrown.

## **SECOND LESSON:**

## **1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–31**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of First Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**A** Here ends the reading.

**\*VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**MATTHEW 5:1-12**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Lift High the Cross"*

*LBW 377*

**SERMON**

## \*APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

## ANTHEM

*"Blest are They"*  
*Jonah Petruschke, Soloist*

*Haan*

## \*OFFERTORY

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.

## \*THE PRAYERS

Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

*A brief silence*

Father, thank you for Jesus and his teaching! His Beatitudes challenge, humble, and energize us. Give us a double portion of your Holy Spirit, so that by your grace, we may begin to live out those Beatitudes, to your glory and for the blessing and benefit of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*(Other intercessions are offered)*

**P** Into your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

**C Amen**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. In the name of the Father, and of the ✕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

*LBW 415*

**\*DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*"Grand Choer"*

*Hollins*

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*A Nursery/Cry Room is available on the second floor of the Education Building for those who may need it.*



*Everyone is invited for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering space!*

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Today after Worship!**



Our annual congregational meeting will be held today following worship. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2023 and elect an endowment trustee.



**Come support St. John's Youth Group!  
Youth Group Breakfast Casserole  
Bake-off Fundraiser  
Next Sunday, February 5, 2023  
after 11am worship!**

**Join us for a delicious breakfast and see who wins the sought after Casserole Trophy!**



**The flower chart for 2023 has been posted in the narthex.**

Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event.

Price of altar flowers is \$50.00.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

|                      |                   |   |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 1/29</b>   | 9:45 a.m.         | Sunday School   |
|                      | 10:00 a.m.        | Senior Choir  |
|                      | 11:00 a.m.        | Worship   |
|                      | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Annual Congregational meeting</b>                                |
| <b>Wednesday 2/1</b> | 9:30 a.m.         | Children's Hour   |
|                      | 6:00 p.m.         | New Bells   |
|                      | 6:30 p.m.         | Senior Bells  |
|                      | 8:00 p.m.         | Senior Choir  |
| <b>Thursday 2/2</b>  | 9:30 a.m.         | Children's Hour   |
|                      | 2:45 p.m.         | Catechism   |
|                      | 7:00 p.m.         | Catechism   |
| <b>Sunday 2/5</b>    | 9:45 a.m.         | Sunday School   |
|                      | 10:00 a.m.        | Senior Choir  |
|                      | 11:00 a.m.        | Worship: Communion  |
|                      | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Youth Group fundraiser</b><br><b>Breakfast casserole bakeoff</b> |





## **Katie's Cupboard**

More than 38 million people-including 12 million children-in the U.S. experience food insecurity, leaving families to make hard choices between paying bills or buying groceries. Together, let's help everyone get enough to eat!

### **Suggested food pantry items:**

- Canned tuna, ham or chicken
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta sauce and spaghetti
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Beef stew, chili, hearty soups
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Cereals
- Toiletries Cleaning & paper products

Donations to Katie's Cupboard can be left in the church parlor or in the outside cupboard at any time. Also, St. Johns accepts your donations of monetary gifts to buy items to stock the cupboard. For more information, please contact Tammy Fleeger @ 724-664-1773.

**Thank you for your support!**

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Welcome Team  
Camera Operator

Lance Whiteman  
Christine Whiteman  
Ashlynn Zurn  
The Swanson family  
Keith Livengood

## STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music  
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith  
Christine Lettrich  
Michael Craft  
Rebecca Veith  
Elizabeth Cramer



**The flowers on the Altar** this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Esther Choncek on her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary by Butch, Chris & Jeff Choncek and families.

## OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God, each other, our community and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.

**GRACE**  
*happens*



at  
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Kittanning, PA