

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, January 23, 2022
3rd Sunday after Epiphany



CHILDREN'S CHURCH in social room at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child downstairs before worship begins.

Introduction to the Day

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

The asseble stands.

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P: Rejoice in this good news:
In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* 886

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.

Hymn of PRAISE: *p. 139 Glory to God in the Highest*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.
Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

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

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them,

“Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it
again;**

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one’s own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of

the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon “Returning Home”

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day: *Hark the Glad Sound* 239

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**

Prayers of Intercession

A The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (*especially*). Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Most Holy God, we give thanks for the work of Lutheran World Federation as they work with Lutheran partners around the world. Grant them wisdom and insight as they work to support local efforts on human rights, gender justice, climate justice and peace building. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn (*especially*). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Gather Together*

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table,

nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love

to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

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.”

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond **Amen.**

Communion Song *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

P: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve 551*

Dismissal

P: Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Fred Hoffer, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Judy Saar, Shane Snyder. and John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special thanks to today’s helpers: Lector – Deb Heydrich ; Assisting Minister- Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Bob Wehler; Teller Lon Myers; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Children’s Church – Holly Dittmer.

Next weeks’s helpers: Lector –Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers –Karen Aucker, Dawn McCloskey; Head Usher – Bob Wehler; Teller Lon Myers; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Children’s Church –. Flowers – Cozette Stoltzfus

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of Henry and Collen Hauser by Ginger Maffett.

The altar flowers are given in memory of our parents by Betty and Jim Allen.

Thank you to Pastor and Karen and out entire church family for all the prayers, cards, and encouragement during my medical recovery. It was truly appreciated! Mary Ellen Dougherty.

Still Needed! – The **2022 Flower calendar** has been posted on the upstairs bulletin board **and is quite empty!** The Sanctuary Candle sign-up sheet and the **Bulletin Sponsors sheets** are in the downstairs hallway. Your contributions to these items for worship are appreciated.

Applications for Trinity Endowment Fund **Scholarships** are now being accepted until March 1, 2022. Applications are available on the church website or in the office. Applicants must have completed one full semester to be eligible. Requirements are printed on the application. It is open to all members of St John. Non-members may apply with a member in good standing as a sponsor.

Payments for Sight and Sound “DAVID” February 6 - \$65.00; May 1 - \$65.00 and the final payment June 17 - \$60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Joyce Braucht.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Update on the Rising Anew Campaign. We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to \$ 277,281.68 as of December 31. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: "Rising Anew" and put it in an envelope with your name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

Automate your regular offering Do you know that over \$4,000 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

Vanco Mobile app. St. John Lutheran offers a convenient way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the "Vanco Mobile Faith" app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. If you have any questions, contact Scott Mitchell.

We also offer **VancoText:** Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder's name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. VancoText is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give. We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity and we thank you for supporting your church.

Weis Certificates. As a special fundraiser for church projects, we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy \$10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay \$10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy \$10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend \$100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to \$26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John.

Calling all High School Youth! Join us Monday evening, January 24, 6:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, 229 South Broad Street. Dinner provided.

Topic: "Paint a rock" Bring your friends and join us.

Brunch for the Congregation. Each year the youth of St. John provide a dinner for the members of St. John in appreciation for the financial support we receive. **This year it will be held on Sunday, February 6, after worship.** All available youth are needed.

We are looking for volunteers to lead the Elementary and Middle School age youth groups. Please contact Cathy Eisner if you are willing to lead either of those two age groups. We are seeking parents of children in those age groups who would be willing to volunteer to lead them on Christian activities, studies, and service.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday February 6. It will be a Brunch this year after the morning service. Please plan on attending for fellowship and to participate in the basic business of the congregation

Dear St. John, Thank you so much for my Christmas gift. Sincerely, Sue Willitis

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Monday, January 24, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner and "Paint a Rock" Bring your friends and join us.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 30, 2022

4th Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

