



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

January 22, 2023
9:30 am

GUESTS are always welcome to the Table!

MEMBERS (*two types*)

Voting & Non-voting

KEEPING MEMBERSHIP SIMPLE

1. The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at St. John's, or any ELCA congregation:
 - You request a transfer
 - You ask to be removed
 - You depart this life
2. Voting members must make a record of having:
 - Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
 - Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name is included

WELCOME

You are a blessing to us, and we're glad you're here today!

NEW HERE?

Please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering - you are our guest! Rather, please ask an usher for a Let's Get Acquainted card and drop it in the offering plate.

Restrooms are located on the same level as the sanctuary. Exit the back of the sanctuary, turn left into Parish House, turn left again at ramp and continue midway down hallway. Restrooms are on the right.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available from an usher.

WHERE DO MY KIDS GO?

Children are always welcome to worship. Children's Sunday Church School is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade. Families are encouraged to begin worship together at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Children are dismissed from worship and escorted to their classroom, located on the second floor of the Parish House. Children are released to parents at worship conclusion, approximately 10:30 am.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to pray - your needs are important to us. Prayer request cards can be obtained from an usher and may be filled out and dropped in the offering plate.





GATHERING TIMES

Sunday | 9:30 am | Sanctuary
Worship Celebration with Holy Communion
Livestream on YouTube (St John's ELC Boyertown)

Thursday | 8:00 pm
Service Broadcast on Comcast Channel 28

GET CONNECTED

Connect with God, each other and our community! Follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!



SERVING IN WORSHIP			
Acolyte		Media	Shannon Omlor
Lector	Mary Kay Heimbach	Sound	Myles Omlor
Prayers	Jen Friz	Video	Sarah Eidle
Musicians	Sam Kulp (guitar/vocals), Oliver Mayman (piano)		
Ushers	Joanne Dykie, Scott Scheiry, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth		

BAPTISMAL PROMISE

GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP



LIVE

among God's faithful people



HEAR

the word of God



SHARE

in the Lord's Supper



PROCLAIM

the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed



SERVE

all people, following the example of Jesus



STRIVE

for justice and peace in all the earth

Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may stand.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation may kneel.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Change My Heart, O God

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), with the word 'Refrain' above it. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.' The third staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and a slur. It includes the lyrics 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' The fifth staff continues the melody with another triplet marked with a '3' and a slur, and includes the lyrics 'Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.' The word 'Refrain' appears above the final measure of the fifth staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

Children are dismissed to Sunday School classes.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious

the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia,
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

MESSAGE

Jen Schlegel

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

THE 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.**

The congregation may kneel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Table

Chris Tomlin

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore at His table.

Come all you weary, come and find

His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his betrayal
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.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

Come and taste the joy of God!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

WOV 614

Refrain

Praise to you, O Christ, our Savior,
Word of the Father, calling us to life:
Son of God who leads us to freedom;
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday Church School	Parish House, 2 nd Floor
10:45 AM	Karitas Debrief	Conference Room

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:30 PM	Optimist Club of Boyertown	Lower Level

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

1:00 PM	Joyful Sisters of Service	Conference Room
6:30 PM	Building a Better Boyertown	Lower Level

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

9:15 AM	Connect	Lower Level
6:00 PM	Congregation Council	Conference Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service w/Holy Communion	Chestnut Knoll
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Preschool Music Class

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

8:00 AM	Worship Team Workday	Conference Room
4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday Church School	Parish House, 2 nd Floor

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

We do this by:

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

With a focus on:

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

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Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm