

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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

January 29, 2023  
9:30 am

# 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	Sarah Eidle
Lector	Nancy Edwards	Sound	Chase Sennott
Prayers	Michele Eidle	Video	Shannon Omlor
Musicians	Oliver Mayman (piano), Emily Wambold (vocals)		
Ushers	Charles Haddad, Phil Haddad, Sandy & Terry Wade		

# 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

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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### 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

## O Zion, Haste

ELW 668



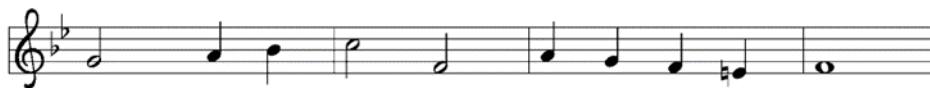
1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion  
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion  
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.  
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp-tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

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.

**Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life 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#). It contains a melodic line with a 'Refrain' label above it. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.' followed by an 'End' label. The third staff starts with a whole rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes, then continues the melody with the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' The fourth staff also begins with a whole rest and a triplet, followed by the lyrics 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' and ends with a 'Refrain' label. The final line of the score has the lyrics 'Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.' and continues the melodic line.

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

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

## Micah 6:1-8

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of

the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what 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 now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving 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 mortal, 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?

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

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup>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. <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, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human 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, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, 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 will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children 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 people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**



*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.  
Music: LIEBSE JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

## 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.

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.*

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. 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

### Go, My Children, With My Blessing

ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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# Lunch & Learn on Welcoming All

facilitated by Jaime Fivecoat

What does it mean to 'Be Reconciled in Christ'?

Sunday, February 19

10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Lower Level

*register on our website or call the office*

Ash  
Wednesday

February 22 @ 7:00pm

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

### MONDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	State Theatre Board	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:15 AM	Preschool Chapel Time	Sanctuary
11:30 AM	Preschool Staff	Preschool
12:45 PM	Preschool Chapel Time	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Worship Team	Conference Room

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Operation 143 Delivery

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 28

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Men's Retreat

Preschool Gym Class

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Men's Retreat

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
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### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Men's Retreat

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

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**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

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## 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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Pastor Bob Machamer

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