

Unfailing Light

Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:00 pm



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

45 North Reading Avenue

Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512

610.369.1024 | www.stjohnsboyertown.org


Unfailing Light – Lenten Worship, Conversations with Jesus

*The disciples urged Jesus strongly, saying,
“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”
So he went in to stay with them.*

The congregation may stand.


GATHERING

Assisting Minister




O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister




From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister




You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister *All*



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We



ble ss your ho - ly name, O God.



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each
 (2. You) walk with us a - long the way, your
 (3. Re-) freshed by sab - bath rest this night, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now at
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ, un -



on the night, and all cre - a - tion sings your
 close of day, our un - known guest, our host and
 fail - ing Light, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you
 feast. Grant those who share this eve - ning meal the
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and
 faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that
 sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -
 hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re -
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. Power of the eternal Father, help us. Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the eye of our understanding. Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite our hearts to yourself. Eternal God, restore health to the sick and life to the dead. Give us a voice, your own voice, to cry out to you for mercy for the world. You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

READING

John 3:2-9

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

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

MESSAGE ‘*Nicodemus*’

Abbe Grofe

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Evening Fall



1. Let eve - ning fall on field and for - est, on
2. Let moun - tain now re - sound with chant - ing, and
3. Let those who la - bor in the day - light now
4. Let ev - 'ry heart that har - bors ha - tred re -
5. Let day - light fade and shad - ows length - en when
6. O Mak - er of cre - a - tion's choir, O



des - ert me - sa, can - yon deep; let
mead - ow ech - o an - ti - phon; let
bring their work - ing to an end; let
lease its hold, re - ceive your grace; let
those we love draw near to death; at -
Song of love sung out for all, O



coy - ote prowl and night hawk cir - cle while
dusk - y breez - es rus - tle as - pen while
oth - ers rise to keep the vig - il, the
ev - 'ry mouth that spoke in an - ger seek
tend our prayers, our weak faith strength - en as
Spir - it, breath of all our sing - ing, let



sol - emn owl her wise watch keeps.
lake and land join ev - en - song.
weak to guard, the sick to tend.
par - don's peace, then sing your praise.
you re - ceive their fi - nal breath.
praise a - rise, let eve - ning fall.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Refrain

All

Watch, O Lord, with all those a -
wake this night. Watch, O Lord, with all those who
weep. Give your an - gels and saints
charge o - ver all who sleep.

Verses

Assisting Minister

All

Assisting Minister

in your love, Lord.
in your love, Lord.
in your love, O Lord of all.

Text: Prayer by St. Augustine, adapt. Marty Haugen; © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: AUGUSTINE; Marty Haugen, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4. A repeat sign follows, with the word 'All' written above it. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4. The lyrics are: '1. The eyes of all look to / 2. To all who hun - ger'. The third staff has lyrics: 'you, O God, to give them life and food. You / you pro - vide the fruit of vine and field. From'. The fourth staff has lyrics: 'o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and / these, your gifts, we set a - side a'. The fifth staff has lyrics: 'grant them ev - 'ry good. With / por - tion for this meal, where'. The sixth staff has lyrics: 'all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your / you draw near to those who cry, their'. The seventh staff has lyrics: 'stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We / heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We'. The final staff has lyrics: 'bless your ho - ly name. / bless your ho - ly name.' and ends with a double bar line.

All

1. The eyes of all look to
2. To all who hun - ger

you, O God, to give them life and food. You
you pro - vide the fruit of vine and field. From

o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and
these, your gifts, we set a - side a

grant them ev - 'ry good. With
por - tion for this meal, where

all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your
you draw near to those who cry, their

stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We
heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We

bless your ho - ly name.
bless your ho - ly name.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful; you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger that all may know your care. Prepare us now to receive your mercy: Jesus Christ, the bread of life. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider *All*

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

Presider *All*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the 'Presider' and 'All', with the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff is also for 'Presider' and 'All', with the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff is for the 'Presider', with the lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff is for 'All', with the lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

LENTEN PREFACE

It is indeed right and good everywhere and always to give you thanks and praise, Holy God, mighty and immortal, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Who calls us to return to you and live, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love, and faithful to your promises.

And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord,
 God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell with every breath.

All

We praise you, O God.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.

Musical notation for the word "Amen". The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the melody for "A - men." with the word "All" written above it. The second staff continues the melody for "A - men." and ends with a double bar line.

Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

Musical notation for the "Lamb of God" prayer. The piece is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with the melody. The second staff includes the lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the" and is marked with "All" above it. The third staff includes the lyrics "world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us." and is marked with "1., 2." above it. The fourth staff includes the lyrics "world; grant us peace, grant us peace." and is marked with "3." above it. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The congregation may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Please fill out a communion card and hand to an usher or place in the box at back of sanctuary. Tonight we receive the sacrament at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle. Return to your seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion can be brought to you.

BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us as darkness deepens and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

All



Now Lord, you let your
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled. My
own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: a
light to re-veal you to the na-tions, and the
glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.
Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

BLESSING

Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, and give you peace this night and always. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve.

Thanks be to God.

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Kyrie: music© 2001 by GIA Publications,
Watch, O Lord: words and music© 2003 by GIA Publications, Inc.
Let Evening Fall: words and music© 2002 by GIA Publications, Inc.



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Bunny & Ron Riffle

VIDEO

Jason Eidle

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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