



A MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES
**TURNING TOWARD GOD'S
ABUNDANCE**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024, 6:30 PM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

*The **Bold Print** indicates responses spoken by all.
The WOV hymn is found in the blue hymnal located in the pew.*

THE GATHERING

The Prelude

THE OPENING DIALOGUE

P 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.

C And also with you.

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins before God and before one another:

Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we have wandered far from you.
We have not trusted your promises, we have ignored
your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our
inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in
our midst. Have mercy on us. Forgive us and turn us again
to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of
your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's word never fails. By the saving love of Jesus and the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven. God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus, keeping your heart and mind on him.

C **Amen.**

THE GATHERING HYMN *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* ACS 924



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GAN, Welsh melody

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THE EVENING THANKGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

C Amen.

THE WORD

THE PSALMODY

There is a Longing in Our Hearts

ACS 1078

Refrain



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Verses



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our

hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

Refrain



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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—*Silence for Meditation*—

P There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us. Be near and surround us with your presence. Fill our hearts so that, with all creation, we may tell of your mercy and love in our lives.

C **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Week 1—Faithfulness: *Psalm 89 and Luke 4:1-13*

Week 2—Mercy: *Psalm 86 and Luke 13:31-35*

Week 3—Compassion: *Psalm 103 and Luke 13:1-9*

Week 4—Forgiveness: *Psalm 32 and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

Week 5—Love: *Psalm 31 and John 12:1-8*

—*Silence for Meditation*—

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C **and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**



1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry rest - less
 2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us sec - ond
 3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner, be our
 4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it, On - ly



heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
 birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
 friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
 Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, One - in -



loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
 weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
 are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us; aid the
 Three and Three - in - One. We would share your life, your



round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
 strug - gles, Life of life and Death of death, ris - en
 birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
 pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er



sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944–1992

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Music © 1985, 1991 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo

THE PRAYERS

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Sing this Prayer Response after each petition:

ACS 1035



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46

Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

P God of all compassion, gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and the peace of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P May Christ Jesus + dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God.

C Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

WOV 757



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's fra - gile blend with
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: DUNEDIN, Vernon Griffiths, 1894-1985

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Music © 1971 Faber Music Ltd.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 2nd Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Slatington, Pennsylvania and has served the Lehigh Valley since 1868.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Halle Kluever, *Pastor*
Sharon Stehly, *Church Administrator*
Fawn Albert, *Organist and Choir Director*
Bob Kroboth, *Sexton*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

CONTACT

Phone (610)767-6361
Email stjohnslatington@gmail.com

BUILDING HOURS

Weekdays	9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	7 AM to 12 PM

Visit us online at stjohnslatington.org
and follow us on **Facebook**

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, St. John's Lutheran Church accepts online offerings through Vanco, an online payment processing service.

With Vanco, you can choose to give a one-time offering, or you can create an account to schedule weekly or monthly tithes.



To give today, scan the QR Code above by opening your cell phone's camera. This will direct you to the church's online giving website.

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