

**St John**
Lutheran Church

2580 Mt. Rose Ave., York, PA 17402

(717-840-0382)

www.StJohnYorkPA.com

January 24, 2021

8:30 am

**Take My
Keys...
Please!!**



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“St. John will do whatever it takes for the sake of God’s Kingdom.”

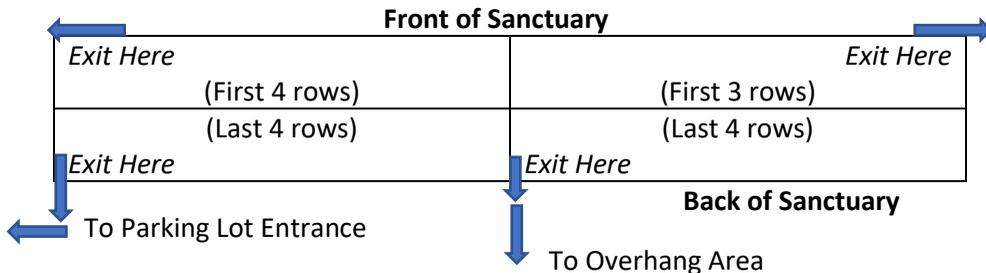
We accomplish this by:

RELY(ing) on God; **RELATE** (ing) to each other as Christ taught;
RESPOND (ing) to His grace with the help of the Holy Spirit

COVID-19 Worship Guidelines

Welcome to St. John! During these challenging times we have tried to create a worship experience that helps us worship in a safe manner and is considerate and loving of our fellow believers in Christ. We do ask that you adhere to a few guidelines that are in place for your safety as well as the safety of others around you. We ask, regardless of your opinion on these difficult issues, to follow the guidelines listed below:

- Please use hand sanitizer when entering the building.
- Please wear a mask for your safety and others.
- Please stay socially distanced in your selection of seating and please allow room for others who arrive later, by moving toward the middle section of the pew.
- We ask that you don’t sing, but hum or mouth the words as they are sung by our music leaders. If you do want to sing, please wear your mask in consideration of others.
- For Holy Communion make sure your used all-in-one communion cup and any other trash is placed in your baggies and discarded in the trash can when you exit the building.
- Please adhere to our exit strategy below:



Thank you for following these simple guidelines. We appreciate your understanding and your consideration of others as we navigate through these trying and difficult times.

If You Are a Visitor:

We thank you for worshipping with us today! If you would like to be part of our daily distribution of devotions and prayers from our Elders, please fill out the form at the back of this bulletin and leave it on your seat. If you do not have a writing implement available, we do have some pencils located on a table in the Narthex. You can fill the form out there and place it in the basket when complete. Thank you and you are always free to speak to the Pastor after the service or you can email him any questions you may have considering the ministry of St. John at pstrcosgrove@comcast.net



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021

8:30 am



Thank you to Seth Jacoby for sharing his gift as an organist with us today.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND TIME OF GREETING

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Hymns Led by Darryl Smeltzer

Congregation stands

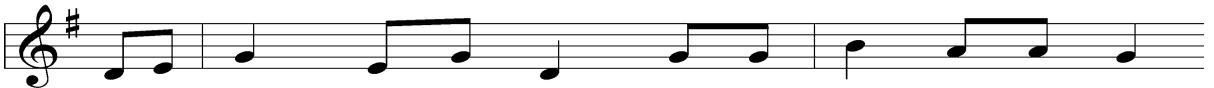
OPENING HYMN

“How Firm A Foundation”

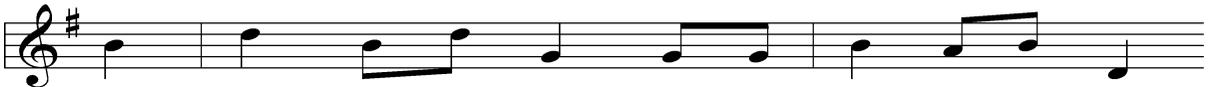
#728, vs 1-3



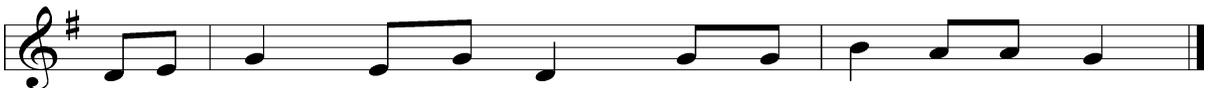
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

C **praise the name of the LORD!**

P Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

C **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

C **Yet we often do not live as You have called us to live as Your own. We do not always honor Your name nor Your calling with our praise.**

P We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You as we follow in faith.

Silence for reflection.

P Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

C **we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.**

P The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, God has compassion. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in His stead, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 4:18-30; 33-37

¹⁸This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.” ¹⁹Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, ²¹whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— ²²it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. ²³And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ ²⁴this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, ²⁵that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. ²⁶And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the

tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. ²⁷Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.” ²⁸All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” ³¹Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws. ³²At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³³all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” ³⁴At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. ³⁵Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall



receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY**“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

#739, vs. 1-3



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
 2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 When my life is al - most gone,
 And the day is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
 Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
 At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

*Congregation is seated***MESSAGE****Being Meek****HYMN****“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

#733, vs. 1-3



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.

Congregation stands

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood in this Sacrament You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation is seated

AGNUS DEI

#163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

As the Pastor leads you, reveal each portion of the communion cup and partake of God's grace and forgiveness to you.

✠ WE DEPART IN PEACE ✠

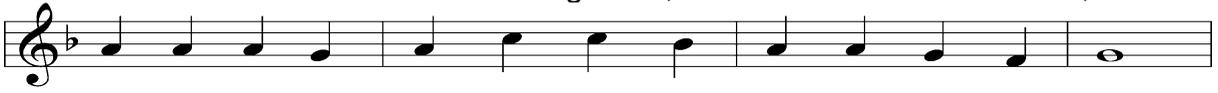
Congregation stands

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

#729, vs. 1-3



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.

DISMISSAL

P The worship is ended.

C The service now begins.

P As we enter the mission field, Relying, Relating, and Responding.

C Let us do whatever it takes for the sake of God's kingdom. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.
© 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: , no. 809822.

Pastor: *Tab E. Cosgrove*

Director of Spiritual Growth (DSG): *Denise Wright*

Audio/Visual Specialist: *Mike Pearl*

Parish Administrator: *Sherry Gable*

DSG Ministry Assistant: *Chris Hanes*

Music: *Hymns led by Darryl Smeltzer*

St John Lives the
W.E.T.
Principle

"Whatever It Takes" for the sake of God's Kingdom!

A note to our visitors:

If you would like to receive our church congregational emails, please provide the information below, tear off this page, and place it in the offering bin or leave it on the pew bench as you leave.

(please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Visit our website at: <http://stjohnyorkpa.com/>