

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

Main Office: 717-248-8780 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:00AM-4:00 PM Fri. 8-Noon
stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

Interim Pastor: Rev. Allen Hulslander

Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

Director of Music/Organist: Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fourth Sunday in Lent / Setting 10*



Introduction

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person, we are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, Strengthen Believers and Care for those in Need.

HOLY COMMUNION will be by 2-line procession through the center aisle. We will celebrate with wafers, wine, and grape juice (please notify Acolyte). Gluten-free wafers are also provided-please tell the Pastor when communing. *If you prefer pre-filled communion cups are available at each entrance.

GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S We are currently not passing the plate; you will find plates located at each entrance. If you would like to give electronically to God's work through St. John's Lutheran Church, visit our website and click on the **E-Giving Tab** to go to a [secure form](#) through VANCO. You may also download the VANCO app, *VANCO MOBILE* and use your existing login information. For New Users: search for St John's Lutheran of Lewistown to find our church. From there you can setup your e-giving how you would like. Look for an information sheet on the church resource table in the Fellowship Hall or ask in the administration office for help. Thank You for your continued support.

OTHER WORSHIP SPACE is available in the fellowship hall, where service can be heard. There is a nursery room (2nd fl. education wing) if needed, as we do not provide nursery care. The service can be heard from this room. Thank you for bringing your children to worship. God's family includes all ages!

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, we would like to get to know you. Please fill out a visitor's card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate at entrances or call the church office. May Christ's spirit be with each and every one of us in our congregational life and faith journey.

LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOKLETS are available, please see a door greeter.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor – Rev. Allen Hulslander

Ushers – Dennis Crossgrove, Joyce Tanner, Dallas Tanner

Lay Lector – Giselle Miller

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, David Phillips, Hillary Worley

Acolytes – Mara Gallo, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers- Terri Limes, Elaine Crossgrove, LaVonne Beers

Media & Production – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler and Mary Barr

PRELUDE 9:00 AM

“Amazing Grace” John Newton, Arr. Glenda Austin, 2003 The Willis Music Co.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

*Please stand as you are able. Congregational responses are in **Bold**.*

Red Hymnal (ELW) will be used for parts of the service.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW#843 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

GREETING

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.

Kyrie (spoken)

P: Hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: Wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

C: Have mercy on us, Christ.

P: Make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

RESPONSE HYMN

ELW #328 “Restore in Us, O God”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Special Music: “Be Thou My Vision” Text from Irish Hymn 8th c., Music by Mary McDonald,
2015 Hope Pub. Co.
Chancel Choir

WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD’s chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the

sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

Psalm: Psalm 23 – Congregation in Unison

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹**The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.**

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³**You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.**

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light, which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

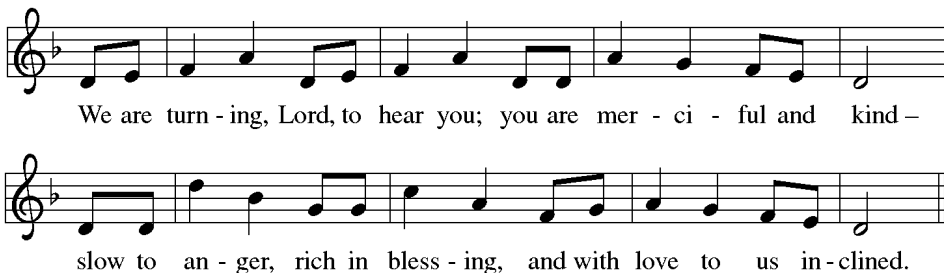
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *all children are invited forward.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the

light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do

you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

After the reading ...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allen

Apostles' Creed

Please stand as you are able.

**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 into hell.
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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end: "Merciful God".

And the Congregational response is:
"receive our prayer."

Sharing of God's Peace

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words,

"Peace be with You." **And also with you.**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Bob Shaw, Freda Hook, Patty Wagner, Michaela Nagel, Steve Rodgers, Steve & Vicki Yohn, Poppy Jean Miller, Tony Willard, and Jane Campbell

*To have someone added to the Prayer Guide-with their permission-please contact the church office.

MEAL *Please continue to stand*

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we....
and join their unending hymn (sung):

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. 207 Setting 10

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command....

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

INVITATION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. 208 Setting 10

COMMUNION

*If you feel comfortable at this time, all who are baptized are invited to come forward as directed from the front through the middle aisle. Children, if not already communing, may be brought forward for a blessing from the Pastor. Please hold both hands out to receive the wafer, then an Acolyte will hand you a cup. Please dispose in a near waste basket.

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” Paul Baloche, Arr. Melody Bober, 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna!

“In Christ Alone” Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, Arr. Melody Bober, 2002

“There Is a Fountain” American Melody, Arr. Joel Raney, 2021 Hope Pub. Co.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors,
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
Christ, the resurrection, and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #452 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “Dearest Jesus, at Your World” Johann R. Ahle (#520 in our hymnal)

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NOTICE: Audio/Video recording When you enter a St. John's Evangelical Lutheran worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Please see notes at entrances for further details. Live-Streaming will continue as needed- if you are behind camera, you will not be on camera.

DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S BULLETINS are presented by Tim & Pam Tressler in honor of their Grandchildren.

THIS WEEKS ETERNAL CANDLE burns in honor of loved ones given by Dee Monroe.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Suzanne Grassmyer in memory of Leon Grassmyer.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

COUNCIL has accepted the resignation of Brad Swanson from Council and voted to have Jennifer Blessing fill out his term. We welcome Jennifer to Council.

FIRST COMMUNIONS On Sunday March 26th, after church Pastor Allen will have a class for first communion. Please contact the office if your child is ready for first communion. We will celebrate first communions on Maundy Thursday, April 6th.

100th BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER For Helene Snook Transitions Healthcare, 25 Cove Road, Room 111. Duncannon Pa. 17020. **“She Loves Cards.”** Smucker's Jelly will recognize Helene on her birthday March 24th which is featured on The Today Show.

LENTEN OFFERING will go to “Rainbow Summer”, a summer camp for children organized by the Lumina Center.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS! Easter Flower choices for this year are Easter Lilies, Hybrid Lilies, Tulips and Mini Daffodils. The cost is \$9.50. Order forms are located on the table in the lobby. Please put completed forms and payment in the locked box, also located on the table in the lobby. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 19, 2023.**

MOTHER'S HUBBARD CUPBOARD In 2023 Mission and Outreach will collect specific items every month for Mother's Hubbard Cupboard. Dish detergent and laundry detergent are the items for March. Please put your donations in the blue tub located in the lobby thanks for your ongoing support.

WITH THRIVENT CHOICE you can recommend where some Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds go. Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct enroll charities. The deadline is MARCH 31, to direct your Choice Dollars that were designated to you in 2022. Please go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call THRIVENT (1-800-847-4836) say "Thrivent Choice" to direct your Choice Dollars to St. John's Lutheran Church. Even if you have done this in the past you MUST do it every year or your Choice Dollars will be lost. Thank you.

WEATHER ALERT If the Mifflin County School District is closed or closing due to snow and ice, the Church Office, and any activities to be held in the church facility for the remainder of the day and evening are cancelled or postponed.

CD/DVD MINISTRY If you know someone who would like a recording of services, please call the church office. Worship is also being live-streamed /uploaded to our website, www.stjohnslewistown.com. Click the Archive link to view past services. *We are offering a limited number of portable DVD players.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

MEET and EAT All women of St. John's Lutheran Church are welcome to Meet & Eat at Kountry Kitchen in McVeytown on April 4th at 12:00 – Noon. If you need a ride, please call Jennie McCardle at 717-248-1327.

WELCA Is sponsoring a tea at St. John's Lutheran Church on Saturday April 15th at 11am. It's nostalgia, fashion show and tea. The cost is \$12.00. With help from Thrivent in the Social Room Proceeds will be used for our St. John's Lutheran Church Women's Outreach Programs. For reservations, please call Sue Phillips #582-203-9525. Please contact Mary Barr or Jennie McCardle with any questions.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER REGISTRATION It's time to register for camp. Registration forms and booklets are on the table in the lobby. Church Council approved for the church to pay half of Tier 3 fees up to \$265. All registrations and checks must be submitted to the church office by April 10, 2023. This is a firm deadline to ensure we receive the early registration discount. Please direct any questions to Sue Shawver 717-953-4334.

BARNABAS BROTHERS MEETING For March will be held on Saturday, March 25th, at 8:00am at the Church Fellowship Hall. Guest Speaker will be the Honorable Casey Goss, Director of the Kid Connection who will discuss this year's planned activity on Saturday April 29th. Men of the Congregation are cordially invited to attend our scheduled breakfast for a King's Breakfast followed by a presentation by the Speaker and then a time of Christian Fellowship. Please plan on attending. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Burk, at 717-250-7410.

Worship SCHEDULE

Mar. 26 [Fifth Sunday in Lent] 9:00am, Worship 10:15am Sunday School
Apr. 2 [Sunday of the Passion/Palm] 9:00 am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
Apr. 6 [Maundy Thursday] 7:30pm Worship
Apr. 7 [Good Friday] 7:30pm Worship
Apr. 9 [Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Lewistown Ministerium Lenten Lunches
March 15th Salvation Army
March 22nd Grace United Methodist Church
March 29th St. John's Lutheran Church

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Wed. March 22, 29 - Choir Practice

Sat. March 25 – Barnabas Brothers Breakfast at 8:00am at the St. John's Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Burk 717-250-7410.

Mon. March 27 – Church Council Meeting 6:30pm.

Tue. April 4 – Meet & Eat luncheon on April 4th, 12:00-Noon at the Kountry Kitchen in McVeytown. If you need a ride, please call Jennie McCardle 717-248-1327.

Sat. April 15 – 11:00am WELCA is sponsoring a tea at St. John's Lutheran Church in the Social Room. The cost is \$12.00. For reservations, please call Sue Phillips #582-203-9525.

Reminders for March

Acolytes- Mara Gallo, Cooper Rankin

Ushers- Dennis Crossgrove, Joyce Tanner, Dallas Tanner

Communion Assistants- Justice Mills, David Phillips, Hillary Worley

Altar Guild Volunteers- Terri Limes, Elaine Crossgrove, LaVonne Beers

Next Sunday Readings: *Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45*