

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC
www.stjohnswalhalla.org
Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

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Office Hours
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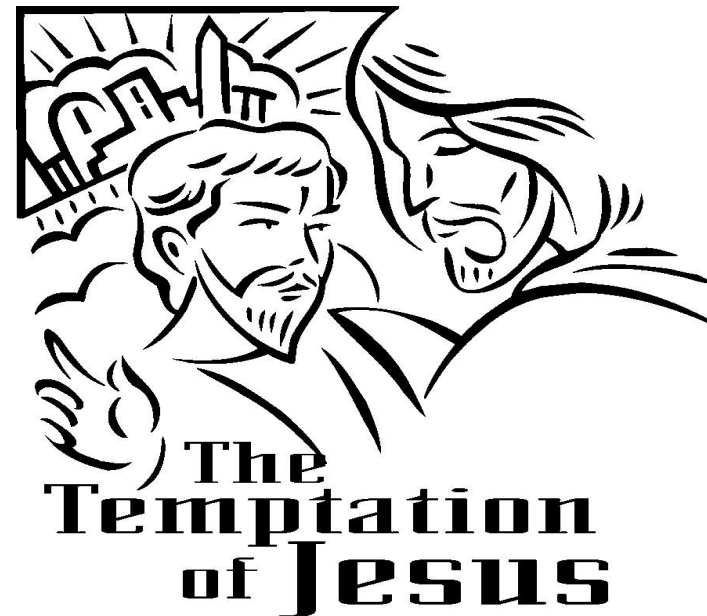
Additional St. John's Staff

Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager
Carla Padgett, Music Director/Organist
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Patty Shepard, Youth Director
Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Congregational President Greg Harris

Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey. Electronic offerings may be given through GIVELIFY. You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and access the secure giving button.



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Walhalla, South Carolina
11am Worship Service
February 26, 2023
1st Sunday in Lent



Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. Matthew 4:1-2

Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please use the hand sanitizing upon entering and exiting the building.
Communion is celebrated at the altar or with the pre-filled communion fellowship cups.

If you are a 1st time Worshiper at St John's, we invite you to sign our visitor book in either the Narthex, or the Back Gathering area.

+++ Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off all electronic devices during worship .+++

Sunday, February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

People: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy God,

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Bell Tower—Ministry News

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND PRAYER SERVICES

Weekly Lenten Soup Meals and Prayer Services begin Wednesday, March 1 and will continue each Wednesday in March.

The Meal will begin at 5:45pm.

Prayer services start at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Crockpots of Soup are needed for each Wednesday meal.

Please sign-up at the Spiritual Opportunities table to provide a crockpot of soup.

Those providing soup eat free that night.

Bread and drinks will be provided—no desserts during Lent.
Suggested dinner donation: \$5 per person/\$10 max for a family.



This year all proceeds from Lenten suppers will be donated to:
SC LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS
BUILDING+RENEWING+BELIEVING:
HOLY SPACES CAMPAIGN

THIS YEAR OUR LENTEN SEASON THEME IS PRAYER.



Serving Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Rachel Connelly

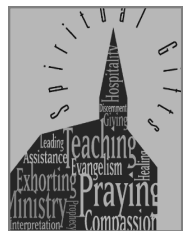
Lay Assistant: Vicar Emily Whitlow

Lector: Andrea Carlson

Organist: Carla Padgett

Greeter/Ushers: Deb Blackmore and Joan Lewis

Altar Guild: Diane Rawlins



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Our Church Family

Dolly Johnsonm, healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing/ surgery
Deb Blackmore, healing/rehab
Bob Beck, healing/back injury
Dave Lewis, healing, treatments
Frieda Cobb, healing
Eddie Harper, radiation/rehab
Jan Long, home/healing
Ann Brackett, breast cancer/radiation treatment
Judy Nelson, healing from sickness
Beth Davis, home
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery
Jana Snelgrove, healing
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Peg Turner, The Oaks
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care (possible stroke)
Ann Biemann, home healing
Jack Campbell, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home. recovery cataract surgery
Doug Deane, hospice at home
Betty Sosebee, Residence at Park Place
Jeanne Welch, home, healing
Dottie Brandt, Lila Doyle
Julie Corbett, home care
Marie Palmatier, home
Betty Wallace, Belvedere

Other Prayer Concerns

For Syria and Turkey following the devastating earthquake that has taken more than 40,000 lives and left thousands injured and /or homeless
All those affected by winter storms.
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff
Our elected leaders, for continued wisdom
All military personnel

Our Extended Family and Friends

Dan Huber (Safrit)
George Combes, healing from Covid (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Peggy Hall, (Libby McLean’s sister) advanced melanoma in lung
Don Rivers, COPD complications (Brackett)
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (friend of Ann Brackett)
Ken Burnside, chemo/radiation (cousin of Barbara and Paul Wilson)
Joey Kuemmerer, open heart surgery (cousin of Barbara and Paul Wilson)
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)
Sara Pike, breast cancer/treatment (daughter of Dean and Anne Fogel)
Volanté Roberts, breast cancer (friend of David and Cathy Plowden)
Debra Turk, treatment of breast cancer (daughter of Delores Kreuger)
Perry Shearouse, treatment of cancer (cousin of Delores Kreuger)
Barbara Vigneault, healing from lymphoma (friend of Williams)
Chris Dodson, healing from surgery (Daniels)
Diane Rivers, treatment for cancer (sister of Bill Brackett)
Tara Nolan, cancer (friend of Anne Fogel)
Doug Wilson, continued healing (Tina Barrett)
Jacquelyn Moore, healing/MS (niece of Kathy Scherter)
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)
Jaime Henry, heart issues (son of Annie Henry)
Bryce Easton, cancer (family of Fredi Hallman)
Kay Davis, cancer (friend of the Daniels)
Betty Watkins (friend of Betty Sosebee)
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)
Tom Tyree, cancer (friend of Sears)
Harold Smith, heart (friend of Tina Barrett)
Jennifer Rowe (friend of the Nortons)
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)
Eddie Harper, health (husband of Diane Harper)
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)
Lily Sander (granddaughter of the Johnsons)

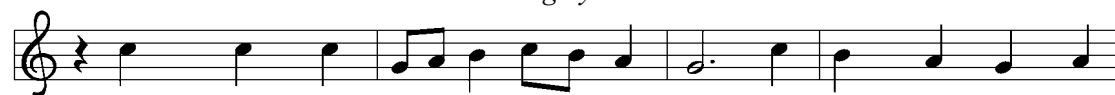


Please let the church office know of any updates to our prayer list.

OPENING SONG

“A Mighty Fortress”

ELW#504



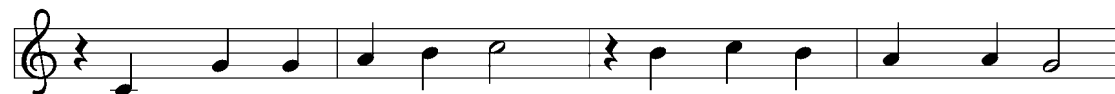
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

THE GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **People: And also with you.**

KYRIE

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **People: Amen.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE / PRAYER SQUARES

Vicar Emily Whitlow

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM 32—*Read Responsively*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit
and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE BLESSING

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

People: Amen.

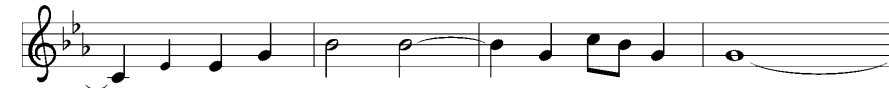
THE SENDING HYMN

ELW #325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. Serve in love. **People: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

When Peace, like a River
It Is Well with My Soul



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **People: Amen.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

LENTEN VERSE



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and



mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer”

ELW #618



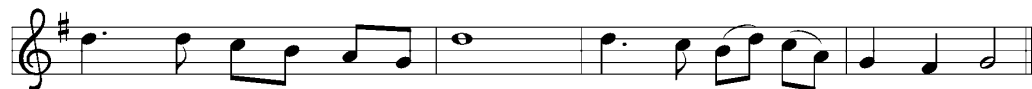
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition— Merciful God, receive our prayer.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **People: And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

We share our tithes and offerings in response to God's grace and love to us.

ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY

ELW 885

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: 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 meals you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **People: Amen.**

THE MEAL

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to His table for Holy Communion. When someone cannot receive either the bread or the wine, it is permissible to receive only one element, being assured that the full gift of the Lord's Supper is received. Please follow the directions of the ushers as you come forward to the communion table. Prefilled fellowship cups are also available.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 107

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT THE ALTAR/IN SEATS

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p.112

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us peace.*