

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC  
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**Office Hours**  
Monday– Friday 9:00am-1:00pm (temporary)  
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*Let us kneel before  
the Lord, our Maker!  
Psalm 95:6*

**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](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org) and access the secure giving button.



## St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11am Worship Service

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent



### 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, March 12, 2023  
Third Sunday in Lent

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

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.

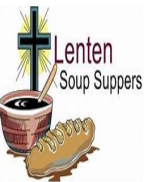
Crockpots of Soup are needed for each Wednesday meal.

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

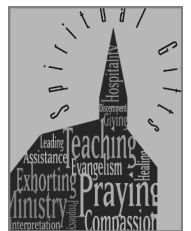
Lay Assistant: Vicar Emily Whitlow

Lector: Andrea Carlson

Organist: Carla Padgett

Greeter/Ushers: Deb Blackmore and Joan Lewis

Altar Guild: Diane Rawlins



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### Our Church Family

Eddie Harper, colon cancer/rehab  
 Dolly Johnson, healing  
 Tiffany Chapman, healing/ surgery  
 Deb Blackmore, healing/rehab  
 Bob Beck, healing/back injury  
 Dave Lewis, healing, treatments  
 Frieda Cobb, healing  
 Ann Brackett, healing  
 Judy Nelson, healing from sickness  
 Beth Davis, home  
 Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery  
 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

Brad Eaton, Fredi Hallman's son in law—healing from heart issues/operation  
 Penelope Ridel, newborn granddaughter Tina Barrett  
 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)  
 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)  
 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)

### OPENING SONG

*“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*ELW 807*



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

### 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

pg. 98

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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

Vicar Emily Whitlow



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

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

PSALM 95—*Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker. R**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup>**“Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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.**

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

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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.*

COMMUNION HYMN

*“Come to Me All Pilgrims Thirsty”*

ELW 777



- 1 “Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 “Come to me, all trav-ers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 “Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 “Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live.”  
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest.”  
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face.”  
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name.”

*Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 “Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
come, your open hands extend.” *Refrain*

- 6 “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
let me make in you my home.” *Refrain*

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

John 4:5-42

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is ‘coming’ (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them,



“I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE *“For All the Faithful Women”*

*ELW 419*

1 For all the faithful women  
who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given;  
to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness  
in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness,  
proclaimed your pow'r to save.

2 O God, for saints and servants,  
those named and those unknown,  
in whom through all the ages  
your light of glory shone,  
we offer glad thanksgiving  
and fervent prayer we raise  
that, faithful in your service,  
our lives may sing your praise.

3 Recall the outcast woman  
With whom our Lord conversed:  
Christ gave her living water  
To quench her deepest thirst.  
Like hers, our hearts our yearning:  
Christ offers us His Word.  
Then may our lips be burning  
To witness to our Lord.

4 All praise to God the Father!  
All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
who binds the church as one!  
With saints who went before us,  
with saints who witness still,  
we sing glad alleluias  
and strive to do your will.

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 *“Prayer”* SJ Praise Ringers Arr. by Engelbert Humperdinck

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