

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

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Office Hours
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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 and access the secure giving button.



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Walhalla, South Carolina
9am Worship



March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY

March 12, 2023

9:00AM

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.

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: "All Who Are Thirsty"

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep

Chorus 1
(We sing) Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come
Repeat Verse

Chorus 2
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

Bridge
As deep cries out to deep (*three times*)

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

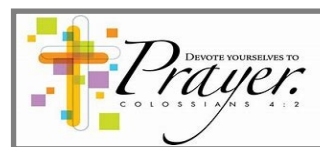
Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection

Our Extended Family and Friends

Brad Eaton, Fredi Hallman's son in law—healing from heart issues/operation
Dan Huber, (Safrits)
George Combes, hospitalized with Covid (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Peggy Hall, advanced melanoma of the lung (sister of Libby McLean)
Don Rivers, COPD complications (brother-in-law of Ann 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)
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 Françoise 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.

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Our Church Family

Eddie Harper, colon cancer/healing
Dolly Johnson, heart catherization (2/27)
Tiffany Chapman, healing from surgery
Deb Blackmore, healing/rehab/back surgery
Bob Beck, fall, back injury
Dave Lewis, healing
Frieda Cobb, healing
Ann Brackett, healing
Judy Nelson, healing from sickness
Lois Cooley, healing/comfort
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth



Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Dottie Brandt, Lila Doyle, well-being
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care
Ann Biemann, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home—Rehab. Lila Doyle
Doug Deane, hospice at home
Betty Sosebee, Residence at Park Place
Jeanne Welch, Mannah Health, rehab and healing
Jack Campbell, home
Peg Turner, The Oaks, Rehab
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 45,000 lives and left thousands injured and /or homeless
All those affected by winter storms especially those who lost loved ones.
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff
Our elected leaders, for continued wisdom
All military personnel

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave His 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.

OPENING SONG

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

Music and Lyrics by Doris Akers

THE APOSTOLIC 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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'S MESSAGE

Vicar Emily Whitlow

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From 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. ²The 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷He 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*

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

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

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

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

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For 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!

⁸**"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

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

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that

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:	Patty Shepard
Greeters:	Jack and Lynne Williams
Director of Music:	Carla Padgett
Musicians:	Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs, David Devoe Carla Padgett



THE MEAL

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to the table of Holy Communion. Prefilled fellowship cups are available.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PARTAKING OF COMMUNION

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE 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.

People: Amen.

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.**

SENDING HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DISMISSAL

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

suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ 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.⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

LENTEN VERSE



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ 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.)¹⁰ 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."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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."¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is “coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just 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?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do 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. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Rain Down”

Chorus: Rain down, Rain down
Rain down your love on your people
Rain down, Rain down
Rain down your love, God of life

Faithful and true is the Word of our God
All of God's works are so worthy of trust
God's mercy falls on the just and the right
Full of God's love is the earth *Chorus*

We who revere and find hope in our God
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing
God will protect us from darkness and death
God will not leave us to starve *Chorus*

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.

COMMUNION SONG

“As the Deer”

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart’s desire
and I long to worship you.