

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

9am Lakeside Worship



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 16, 2023

Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center

## *Welcome to Our Lakeside Worship*

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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### PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG "God Welcomes All"

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
*Merciful God,*

**People: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Leader: Righteous God,

**People: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Leader: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. **People: Amen.**

OPENING SONG: "Build Us Up, Lord"

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*  
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

### 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

Pastor: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### THE FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

### Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13— *Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

**THE SECOND READING:**

**Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**L: The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

**THE ALLELUIA VERSE**

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

<sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!” <sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **“Praise to you, O Christ”**

THE MESSAGE

*The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly*

SONG OF RESPONSE: *“Spirit of the Living God”*



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me,



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.



Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 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—* Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

PRE-COMMUNION SONG: **"Sanctuary"**

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary; Pure and Holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living; Sanctuary for You.

Holy Spirit, fill this vessel; Make my heart to, burn within  
Purify me, make my life be; A sanctuary for You.

THE MEAL

*All are welcome at the table of communion*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: **"Come by Here, My Lord"**



- 1 Come by here, my Lord, come by here; come by here, my Lord, come by here;
- 2 Some-one's cry - ing, Lord, come by here; some-one's cry - ing, Lord, come by here;
- 3 Some-one's sing - ing, Lord, come by here; some-one's sing - ing, Lord, come by here;
- 4 Some-one's pray - ing, Lord, come by here; some-one's pray - ing, Lord, come by here;
- 5 Some - one needs you, Lord, come by here; some - one needs you, Lord, come by here;



- |  |   |       |               |
|--|---|-------|---------------|
| come by here, my Lord, come by here;       | O | Lord, | come by here. |
| some-one's cry - ing, Lord, come by here;  | O | Lord, | come by here. |
| some-one's sing - ing, Lord, come by here; | O | Lord, | come by here. |
| some-one's pray - ing, Lord, come by here; | O | Lord, | come by here. |
| some-one needs you, Lord, come by here;    | O | Lord, | come by here. |

## THE PASTORAL BLESSING

### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

Pastor: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *“Bring Forth the Kingdom”*



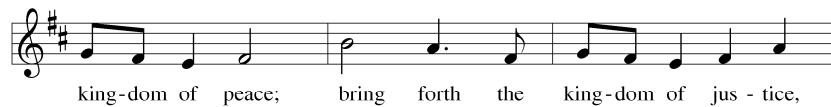
1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!  
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!  
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!  
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!  
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



### DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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# The Bell Tower—Ministry News



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center  
 10:00 am Sunday School at St. John's Lutheran Church  
 11:00am at St. John's Lutheran Church



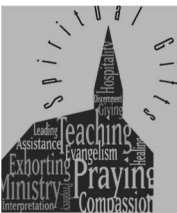
The Gloria Shealy Circle will once again be collecting school supplies for their summer project. Please bring any donations to the church and place them in the marked box for this next to the gathering space table. Needs include pens, pencils, pencil holders, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, rulers, index cards, crayons, colored pencils, highlighters, 3 prong folders, glue sticks, scissors, binder dividers. These items will be collected through the **first week in August**. We want to thank the congregation for supporting the Gloria Shealy Circle with this project to help the students of Oconee County with these needs.



**Attention WELCA!**--Our fun time will be at our **Tour of Tables on Saturday, August 19 at 11:15 a.m.** You have the opportunity to decorate a round table with a theme using a centerpiece, place settings, etc. Guidelines are provided. An energetic speaker and a delicious luncheon are planned. Thank you in advance for signing up to decorate a table or to provide a door prize at the Spiritual Opp table in the sacristy, or contact Lynn Pode or Barbara Wilson. Tickets will be \$20 and will be on sale later this coming week.



Thank you to everyone who donated snacks for Day Camp and those who made lunch and dinner for the counselors. Everything went well and the kids all had a great time!



Presiding Minister:  
 Lay Assistant:  
 Lector:  
 Greeters/Ushers  
 Musicians:

### Serving Today

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly  
 Vicar Emily Whitlow  
 Patty Shepard  
 Gary and Barb Bowman  
 Carla Padgett, Tom Ward,  
 Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe

**Our Church Family**

Jean Norton, cancer diagnosis/surgery  
Thelma Miller, cancer recurrence  
Lynne Williams, healing  
Jan Day, healing  
Tiffany Chapman, healing  
Bob Beck, healing back injury  
Frieda Cobb, healing  
Robert Campbell, healing  
Lois Cooley, healing/comfort  
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery  
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth



**Those grieving**

Diane Harper and family, loss of husband, Eddie  
Joan Lewis and family, loss of husband, Dave

**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, Health and Well-being  
Jack Campbell, at Anderson Rehab  
Peg Turner, The Oaks  
Julie Corbett, home care  
Marie Palmatier, home  
Betty Wallace, Belvedere

**Other Prayer Concerns**

For our country and for those grieving from recent mass shootings.  
All military Personnel  
All those affected by extreme weather  
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff



**Our Extended Family and Friends**

Zane Murphy (burst appendix/Sloan)  
Jane Finkenstadt, healing  
Family of Gladys Martin (died on 5/14, family to Nowell's)  
Joan Kramer, healing (friend of Scot and Linda Williams)  
Kevin Hathcock, viral meningitis, improving (Safrit's family)  
Evelyn Miller (Micky Ward's mother)  
Frank Guldner, healing  
Brad Eaton, Fredi Hallman's son in law—healing from heart issues  
Dan Huber, improving (Safrits)  
George Combes, healing and care (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)  
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)  
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)  
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)  
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)  
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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Cell: (803) 587-3113 or Email: stjohnsvicaremily@gmail.com  
**Music Director, Carla Padgett**  
Email: carla@carlasart.com  
**Melissa Rasley, Administrative Assistant**  
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com



**Additional St. John's Staff**  
Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager  
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator  
Greg Harris, Congregational President  
Patty Shepard, Youth Director  
Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator

**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.

