

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



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 9, 2023

Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center

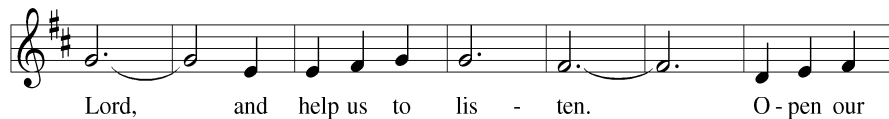
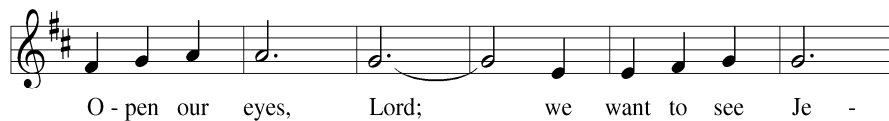
# Welcome to Our Lakeside Worship

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

## PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING SONG "Open Our Eyes Lord" (sing 2x)



## 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: "Give Me Jesus"



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

### 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:** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING:

### **Zechariah 9:9-12**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

## Psalm 145:8-14— *Read Responsively*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

## THE SECOND READING:

### **Romans 7:15-25a**

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

<sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: “Praise to you, O Christ”**

THE MESSAGE

*Vicar Emily Whitlow*



ROMANS 7:25, NRSV

SONG OF RESPONSE: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

*Refrain*

Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;

dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

*Refrain*

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

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: *“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

## 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: *“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”*

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your  
prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth  
to show the way, from the earth to the cross,  
my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

### 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.



## **St. John's is hosting Lutheroad Day Camp at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center July 10-14, 2023**

Camp runs 9am—4pm Monday—Thursday, 9am—12 pm on Friday

For children completing K—5th grade

Cost is only \$140 for the week and scholarships are available.

**3 spots available— must register by Noon Today.**



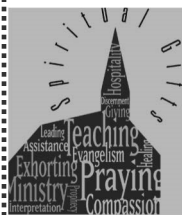
### Day Camp Needs

Our Lutheroad Day Camp counselors from Lutheridge will be arriving Sunday, July 9 and Day Camp begins Monday, July 10.

We still have needs for Day Camp to support our counselors and campers.

- Healthy Daily Snacks (individual wrapped like goldfish, pretzels, fruit snacks)
- Lunches for Counselors (Monday)
- Hosting Counselors for Dinner (Thursday)

***Please let Pastor Rachel or Emily know if you can help.***



Presiding Minister:

Lay Assistant:

Lector:

Greeter/Usher

Musicians:

### Serving Today

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly

Vicar Emily Whitlow

Bill Hughes

Frieda Cobb

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  
Libby McLean and family, loss of Libby's sister, Peggy Hall  
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 Françoise 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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**Music Director, Carla Padgett**  
Email: carla@carlasart.com  
**Melissa Rasley, Administrative Assistant**  
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com



*“Come to me, all you who  
are weary  
and burdened,  
and I will  
give you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28

**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.

