

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 22, 2023



Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

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

Please use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the building.

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

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

Welcome to Worship!

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✙ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God, **You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✙ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW 834

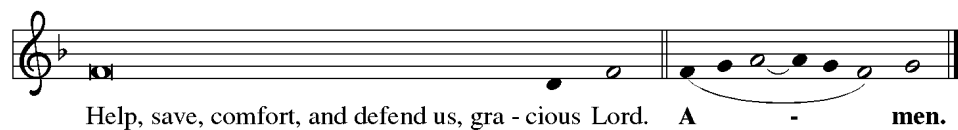
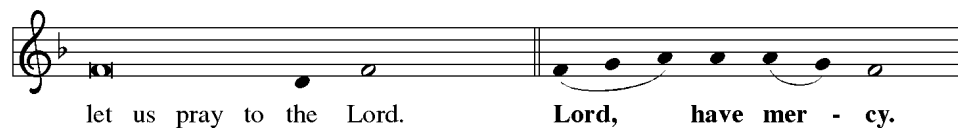
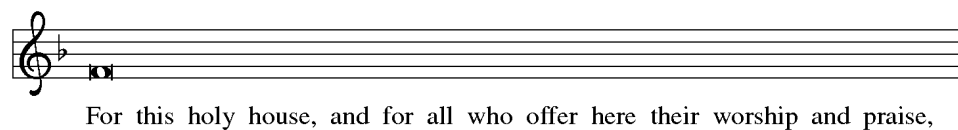
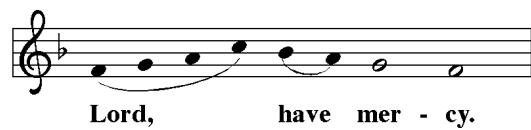
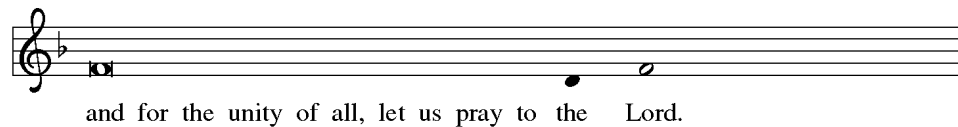
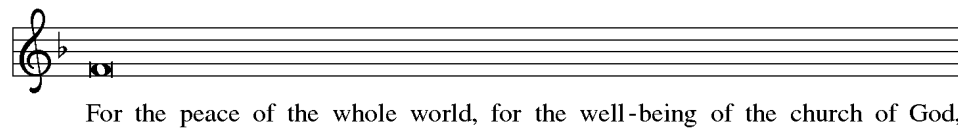
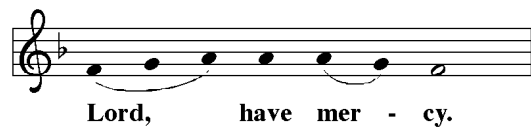
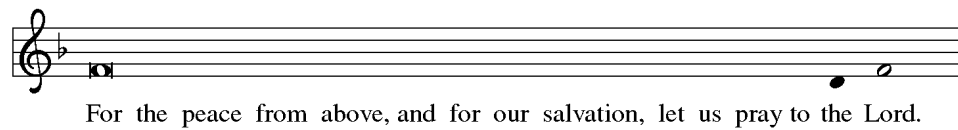
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



KYRIE—*Congregation sings responses in bold.*



THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with You. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

TEMPLE TALK

Cathy Plowden

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Mark McLean

THE FIRST READING:

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Psalms: 96:9-13— ***Read Responsively***

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

THE SECOND READING:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

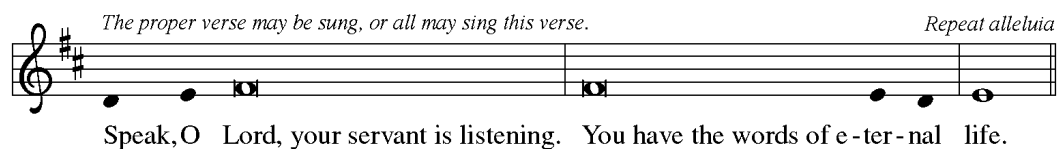
⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 169



THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.

²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord”

ELW 580

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.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM

"The Servant Song"

Arr.: David Schwoebel

SJ Chancel Choir with Mike Bridgwood on oboe

OFFERTORY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition— God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in us, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

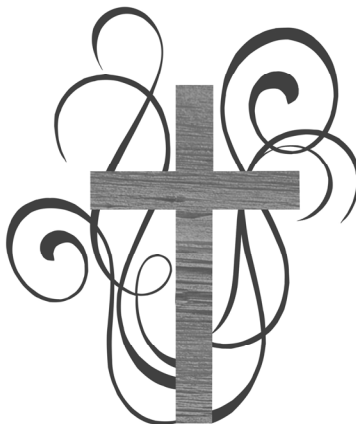
ELW 705

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE





Breast Cancer Awareness Month, held in October every year, aims to promote screening and prevention of the disease, which affects one in eight women in the United States every year and 2.3 million women worldwide. Known best for its pink theme color, the month features a number of campaigns and programs — conducted by groups ranging from breast cancer advocacy organizations to local community organizations to major retailers — aimed at:

- Supporting people diagnosed with breast cancer, including metastatic breast cancer
- Educating people about breast cancer risk factors
- Stressing the importance of regular screening, starting at age 40 or an age that's appropriate for your personal breast cancer risk
- Fundraising for breast cancer research

This information is provided by Breastcancer.org. Donate to support free resources and programming for people affected by breast cancer.

REFORMATION SUNDAY—RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 11AM WORSHIP



Four of our youth will be confirmed:

- ♦ Campbell Parris
- ♦ Charlotte Conaway
- ♦ Sage Singer
- ♦ Ave Riddle-Perras

A reception will be held following worship in honor of our confirmands.

Wear Red in celebration of the renewing fire of the Holy Spirit!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - All Saint's and Stewardship Appeal Sunday

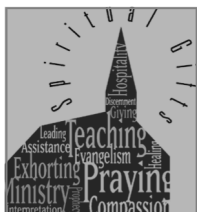
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - St. John's 170th Anniversary Celebration. One Worship Service at 10:30am with a Covered Dish Lunch following in the Fellowship Hall.



**"GIVE...
TO GOD THE THINGS
THAT ARE
GOD'S."**

MATTHEW 22:21, NRSV



Serving Today
Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connolly
Lay Assistant: Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz
Lector: John Hewell
Music Director: Carla Padgett
Greeters/Ushers: Sharon Hamilton/Deb Blackmore
Altar Guild: Martha Murtishaw



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Our Church Family

Michael Pode, recovery from surgery
Andrea Carlson, recovery
Fred Hallman, recovery
Anne Fogel, tests
Marcia Lyle, recovery/healing
Brenda Safrit, chemotherapy/healing
Jean Norton, radiation treatments
Thelma Miller, healing
Lynne Williams, healing
Bill Watt, fall/healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Robert Campbell, healing

Those Grieving

The Finkenstadt Family, loss of Jane.
Dottie Brandt & Sarah Wyatt, loss of brother, the Rev.
Henry N. Brandt.
Micky Ward and family, loss of mother, Evelyn Miller

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care
Ann Biemann, home
Dottie Brandt, Lila Doyle, well-being
Jack Campbell, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Julie Corbett, home care
Doug Deane, hospice at home
Linda Humphries, home—Rehab. Lila Doyle
Marie Palmatier, home
Betty Sosebee, hospice
Peg Turner, The Oaks
Betty Wallace, Belvedere
Jeanne Welch, home

Other Prayer Concerns

For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by the violence there.
For those recovering and those who are providing care and disaster response in the aftermath of recent natural disasters throughout the world.
For those dealing with loss and fear from the recent mass shootings and gun violence.
All military personnel
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff



Our Extended Family and Friends

Zach James (son-in-law of Heavner's)
John Rash, healing (son-in-law of Carolyn Brandt)
Kevin Hathcock, healing (Safrit's family)
Frank Guldner, healing
Dan Huber, improving (Safrits)
George Combes, healing (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Don Rivers, COPD (brother-in-law of Ann Brackett)
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (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)
Perry Shearouse, cancer treatment (cousin of Delores Kreuger)
Diane Rivers, cancer treatment (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)
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.*

The Bell Tower— Ministry News



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

ADULT CLASSES— Scott Sprouse's Class is using the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies "God's Law is Love".

The new class "One More Chair" is sharing in topical book and article studies and discussions. This class is co-led by Cathy & David Plowden and Grace Schmeelcke.

YOUTH/CHILDREN- Confirmation Classes led by Mark McLean continue for Youth. Classes for Elementary aged children are led by Tiffany Chapman and Bill Brackett.



Come join St. John's Youth and Children as we participate in Downtown Walhalla's Main Street Trunk-or-Treat during the Walhalloween celebration on **Saturday, October 28**, from 11am to 3pm. Contact Tiffany Chapman for more information tiffany_berg@hotmail.com.



The Survivors Group is having a Potluck Halloween party on **October 30** at 11am at Biggerstaff. All widows/widowers are invited to be a part of this group. Contact Jan Long or Shonda Mahler for more information.



We are starting the Supper Club up again. If you are interested sign up at the spiritual ops table or contact Cathy Plowden (864) 723-5454. We gather in groups of 6-8 for a casual meal together. Couples and singles are welcome.



The altar flowers are given by Joanne Runnion to the glory of God.



Due to circumstances beyond our control, poinsettia orders need to be in by **Wednesday, November 1**. Order forms are on the Spiritual Ops table. This year's price is \$14 each. Contact Diane Rawlins with any questions.



Calling all veterans...Wreaths Across America will be held on **Saturday, December 16**. Any veteran who would like to participate in the ceremony can contact Jane Harris, harrisjaner@gmail.com or 864-882-3043.



**CHURCH
OFFICE
STAFF**

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC

www.stjohnswalhalla.org

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com

Vicar Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Cell: (502) 644-0176 or Email: stjohnsvicarolgamaria@gmail.com

Music Director, Carla Padgett

Email: carla@carlasart.com

Melissa Rasley, Administrative Assistant

(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

**“I am the
LORD,
and there is no other.”**

Isaiah 45:5



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 the GIVELIFY app.
- You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and click on the “Give Now With Givelify” button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

