

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8, 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 gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God,

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

ELW 729

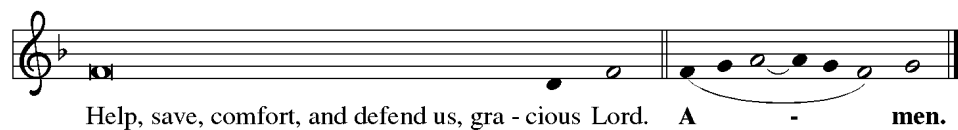
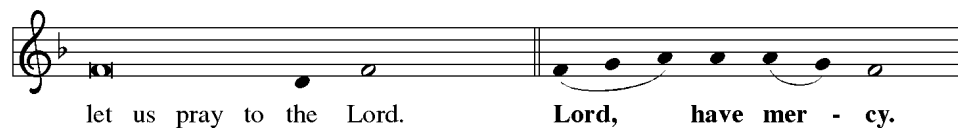
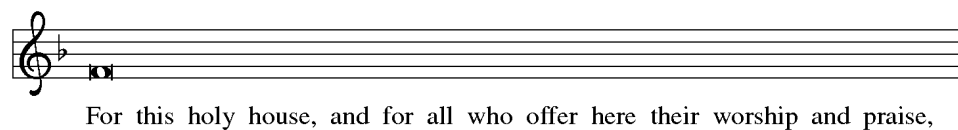
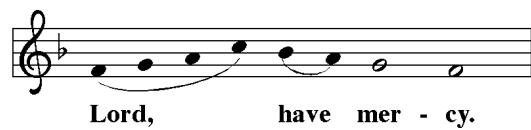
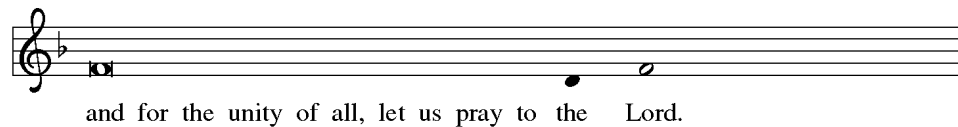
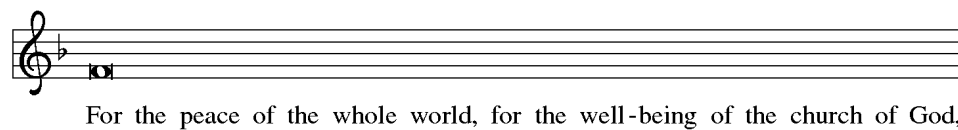
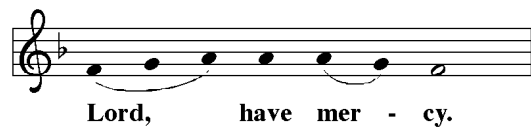
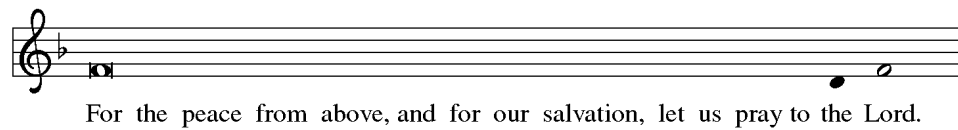
GREETING

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—*Congregation sings responses in bold.*



THE SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with You. **People: And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **People: Amen.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz

THE FIRST READING:

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Psalm: 80:7-15— *Read Responsively*

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

THE SECOND READING:

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

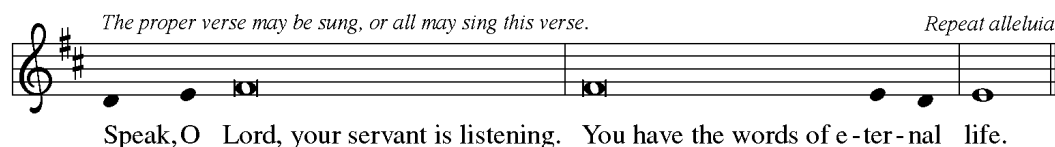
For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there’s sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple
© 1967 OCP Publications

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— God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

OFFERING ANTHEM

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” arr. Michael Helman
SJ Ringers

OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 182



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



bles - sing. 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.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **People: Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS “Lamb of God”

ELW p.191

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

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

THE SENDING HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

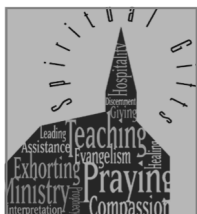
ELW 733

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Serving Today

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly
Lay Assistant: Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz
Lector: Tina Barrett
Music Director: Carla Padgett
Greeters/Ushers: Chuck & Diane Rawlins
Altar Guild: Diane Rawlins



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Our Church Family

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, Residence at Park Place
Peg Turner, The Oaks
Betty Wallace, Belvedere
Jeanne Welch, home

Other Prayer Concerns

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.



On Saturday, October 14. We will have a food booth serving brats & kraut and a Fair Trade Market Booth. All proceeds will be donated to the Oconee County Backpack Program. Sign-up sheet is on the Spiritual Ops table. Lots of volunteer help needed- As with all events serving the community, it takes a St. John's Army to make them a success!



On **Friday, October 13** Survivors group is planning on going to the Oasis for miniature golf. After golf we will have lunch at Ruby Tuesday in Clemson. Meet at the Oasis at 10am. We are also planning a Potluck Halloween party for **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.



The **Fall Foothills Conference** will be held on **Saturday, October 21, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Greenville from 10 am to 2 pm.** Guest speaker will be Mandy Learo, a representative of Jasmine Road in Greenville, whose mission is to provide a path to healing and employment for women survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Lunch is provided with a short business meeting. Questions? Contact Barbara Wilson.



The altar flowers are given by Janet Smalley to the glory of God and in honor of Betty Mantell and her service to St. John's.



Today was our last Sunday of lakeside worship at Biggerstaff. Our 9am service will continue next Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.



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 press on
toward the goal to
win the prize for
which God has
called me
heavenward
in Christ
Jesus.*

P h i l i p p i a n s 3 : 1 4



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.

