

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Walhalla, South Carolina
11 am Worship Service
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024



Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our 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!

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW 661

GREETING

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

Congregation: And also with you.



KYRIE

ELW pg. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**
 Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pg. 148

Assisting minister




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All




Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



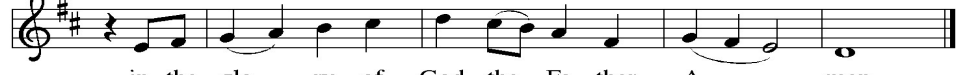
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz

THE FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalm 62:5-12 — *Read Responsively*

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold,
so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is
our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase,
set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

ELW 151



Mark 1:14-20

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

Pastor Rachel Connelly

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 - *Please be seated or kneel*

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

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

Our gifts and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church.

Plates are passed by the ushers.



THE OFFERING ANTHEM

"Follow On"
SJ Chancel Choir

by Cushing/Lowry

THE OFFERTORY

"The Doxology"

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below, praise him above ye
heavn'ly hosts, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(sung responsively)*

ELW pg. 151

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW pg. 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

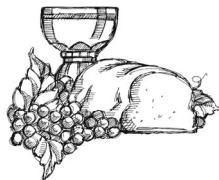
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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*”

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, grant us peace.

“Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult”

ELW 696

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.



THE SENDING HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 810

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

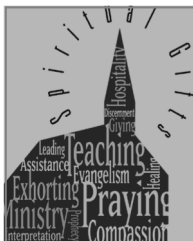
People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



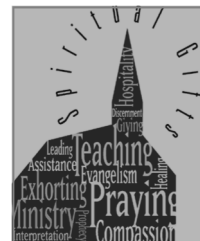
The appointed
time has grown short...
the present form of
this
WORLD
is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31, NRSV



Serving Today

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly
Lay Assistant: Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz
Lector: Mary Sprouse
Music Director: Carla Padgett
Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Ann Brackett
Altar Guild: Diane Rawlins



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Our Church Family

Joezie White, safe travels
Gary Cabbage (& Marsha), Gary—stroke/healing
Martha Murtiashaw, recovery from heart procedure
Frieda Cobb, upcoming surgery
Brenda Safrit, healing
Anne Fogel, tests
Thelma Miller, healing
Lynne Williams, healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Robert Campbell, healing

Those Grieving

The Family and Friends of Dottie Brandt
The Molden Family, loss of Julia's son, Sgt. Cade Wolfe

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

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

Other Prayer Concerns

For Cpl. Lucas Watts and his family, and the
Oconee County Sheriff's Department.
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun
violence.
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.
All military personnel
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff

Our Extended Family and Friends

Larry Greene, lung cancer (brother-in-law of Patty
Shepard)
Annette Vinson, surgery/recovery (friend of Ann
Brackett)
Zach James (cancer) & wife Kat (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)
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)
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



Vicar Olga-Maria's internship project is documenting impacts of the pandemic on our congregation. Please support her work by filling out her brief, anonymous survey, either on paper (on clipboards in the breezeway), or follow this QR code:



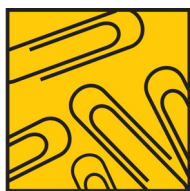
On Saturday February 3, 2024, Rise Against Hunger will be organized by our friends at Walhalla Presbyterian Church. Local churches will be assembling meal kits for those in need around the world. 100 volunteers are needed and the goal is to package 20,000 meals in 2 hours. Sounds ambitious...*but it*

was done last year so it can happen! Volunteers will be asked to help measure, seal, label and package meals of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables and micro nutrient packets. Volunteers are needed to help package the meals from 10am to noon at College Street Baptist in Walhalla. Register online at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WPC2024> or sign up at the Spiritual Ops table.

Save the Date...the evening of **Saturday, February 24, 2024**, Lucy Klaren Circle will be hosting its annual Jubilee and Silent Auction at the Walhalla Depot. There will be lively music, tasty food, a variety of beverages, and lots of great items to be auctioned off. Childcare will be provided at the church. Tickets are \$25 each. All proceeds go towards scholarships for Walhalla High School seniors who demonstrate a passion for community service. If you're not able to attend and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Stephanie Champion at 864-710-2588 or any LKC member.



The altar flowers are given by Ron and Deb Blackmore to the glory of God and in memory of the 86th birthday of William L. Monts, Jr., Deb's brother.



CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

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

www.stjohnswalhalla.org

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

Pastor—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

Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley

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

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

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.

