

# St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 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!***

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

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### 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    *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

*ELW 310*

### 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;



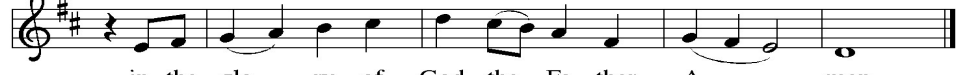
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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:** Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

*Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz*

## THE FIRST READING

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

## Psalm 111 — *Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;**

**you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works**

**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

## THE SECOND READING

### **1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—

<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 151



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

THE SERMON

*Pastor Rachel Connelly*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“Healer of Our Every Ill”*

*ELW 612*

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 - *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

*“Down in the Valley to Pray” arr. Jay Althouse  
SJ Chancel Choir*

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.

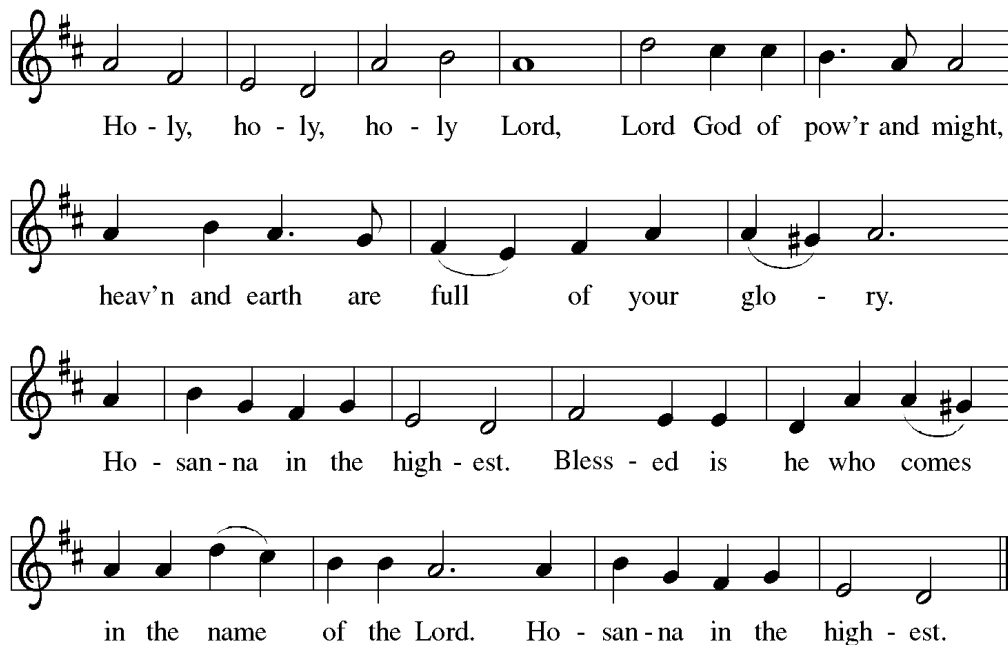
**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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.

*“There is a Balm in Gilead”*

*ELW 614*

## 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

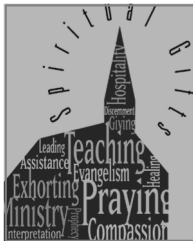
*“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886*

THE DISMISSAL

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Serving Today

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly

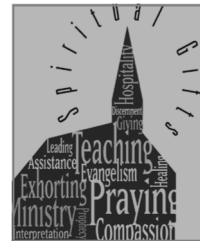
Lay Assistant: Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz

Lector: Tina Barrett

Music Director: Carla Padgett

Greeters/Ushers: Ryan & Christy Raab

Altar Guild: Ann Brackett



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### **Our Church Family**

Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch  
Risse Snelgrove, surgery/healing  
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**

Kathy Quickel, recovery (Mike Goynes mother)  
Brandon Fong, loss of mother (friend of Carla)  
Stephen Gilliam, (father of Allen Gilliam)  
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.*

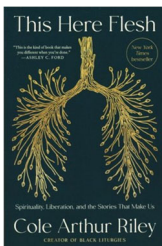
## The Bell Tower— Ministry News



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.

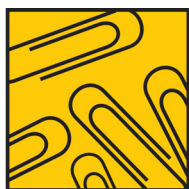


St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, Feb 20th at 7 pm** at the parsonage. February's book is **This Here Flesh**, by Cole Arthur Riley, available in hard or soft cover, audiobook or kindle e-book. Also, our monthly meetings will now be **hybrid events!** Please **RSVP** when you can, via email or text (502-644-0176) -- and be sure to let Vicar Olga-Maria know if you'll be attending in person or joining us via Zoom so she can send you a link.

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 Janet Smalley to the glory of God and in honor and appreciation for the St. John's Altar Guild.



## CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

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

[www.stjohnswalhalla.org](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org)

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

**Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly**

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

**Vicar— Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz**

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

**Music Director—Carla Padgett**

Email: [carla@carlasart.com](mailto:carla@carlasart.com)

**Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley**

(864) 638-6363 or Email: [stjohnsluther@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.

