



St. John's

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

- ❖ We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you're a visitor, please enter your name in the guestbook near the entrance and our pastor will reach out to you.
- ❖ A printed cross  is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body. We make the sign of the cross to remember our Baptism and the promise: "*You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*"
- ❖ **Bold print** indicates a speaking part for the whole assembly.
- ❖ Restrooms are located in the Narthex to the right of the front door and through the doors behind the choir to the left.
- ❖ A nursery is available for your use. Ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ Scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (NRSVue). If you'd like to purchase a *Lutheran Study Bible*, copies are available in the church office.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is **Setting Four** from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the people of St. John's.

Altar flowers are a meaningful way to glorify God and honor loved ones in worship. A gift of \$75 to the St. John's Flower Fund is encouraged. To sponsor altar flowers, please contact the church office.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to join us in prayer for members and friends of St. John's. A printed prayer list is available in the Narthex and is emailed each morning at 4:30 a.m. in the *Daily Cycle of Prayer*.

*To add a name, please submit a request through our website or contact the church office.
Scan the QR code below to view the current list.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT MEAL & BIBLE STUDY POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 9

Because of the winter weather, we postponed our Greece presentation and meal to Monday, February 9th, at 6:30pm. *So there's still time to sign up if you are interested!*

LUTHERAN MEN AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS TUESDAY

All Lutheran men are invited to join the party Tuesday, Feb 3 at 6pm in the Fellowship Building.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to read, assist in Holy Communion, and help run our livestream. These roles are open to all ages. Please prayerfully consider volunteering in one of these areas. Livestream training is available for those interested. Reach out to Pastor Matt for more information.

HANDBELL CHOIR TO RESUME

Open to both youth and adults. You do need to read music to play bells, but it is okay if it's been a while since you've read music. Each ringer will only be responsible for two notes (but that will also include the sharps or flats for those two notes, depending on what they are). Rehearsals will begin on March 1st.

SPRING VIA DE CHRISTO WEEKENDS

The Spring Via de Cristo weekends are coming up! The dates are as follows: Men's February 26- March 1, Women's March 5-8 and Mixed May 28 - 31. Several of our members are serving on teams this Spring. They are as follows: Gerald Cline, Vera Drye, Ellen Goodman, Carol Hinson, Melanie Hudson, Rathel Goodman, David Johnson and Bonnie Shoaf. If you are interested in more info, please talk to one of these folks. It is a wonderful gift you can give yourself!

WELCA EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Bi-Annual Meeting – February 15th – 3:00pm; Executive meeting at 2:30pm.
- Spring Gathering – March 21st here at St. John's. More information forthcoming.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Carter Rowland for being named to the Chancellor's List at UNCC for Fall 2025!

⊕ GATHERING ⊕

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Rowland-Rybold

CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the **⊕** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **⊕** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #907



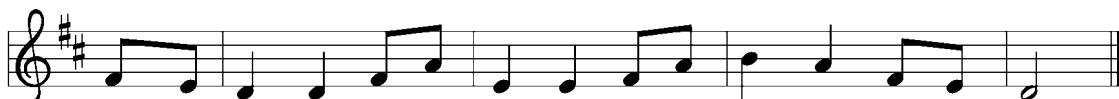
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

† WORD †

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Children are invited to come forward for a conversation with the pastor.

FIRST READING: MICAH 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

¹ Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what

King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15

We read Psalm 15 responsively.

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?
² Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;
³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.
⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.
⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

A reading from Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

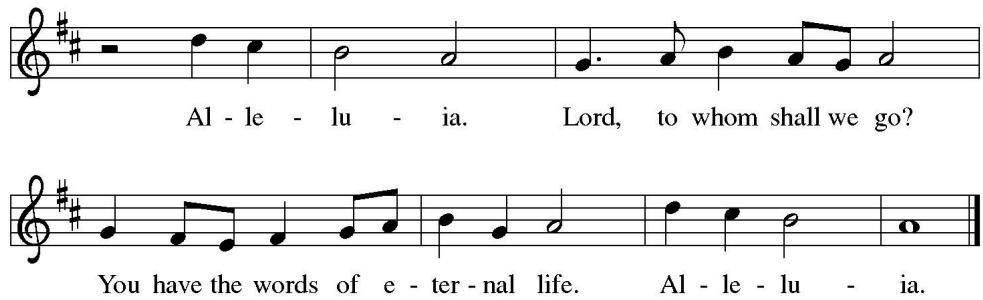
²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe.

²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW #710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of
 the Father, and 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Social Services of America, Global Refuge, Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, and the Sonshine Backpack Ministry. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

† MEAL †

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

O God in Heaven

arr. Domino

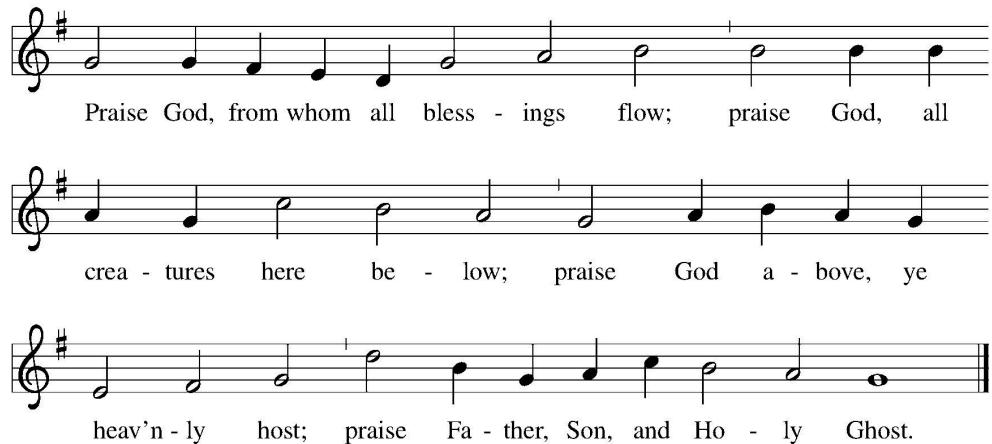
OFFERING

You may give online, by visiting www.stjohnsconcord.com/give or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #885



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ *You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward during the distribution with your arms crossed.*
- ❖ *Please note: The homemade communion bread is gluten, dairy, and nut free. If you prefer a wafer, please indicate by raising a finger as you approach the pastor.*
- ❖ *Grape juice, instead of wine, is also available.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

⊕ SENDING ⊕

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ⊕ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW #650



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

15th c. English Carol

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Matt Hansen *Pastor*
Catherine Ritch *Organist*
Susan Shuping *Lector*
Jim & Susan Hayes *Communion Assistants*
Davis & Roman Dorton Troy Miller & Bob Shuping *Ushers*
Shuping Family *Livestream Support*
Patti & Hailey Fletcher *Nursery Attendants*
Anne Shuping *Altar Guild*
Angela Ferguson *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

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ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church Office Hours Mon-Thu, 8am-1:30pm; Fri, 8am-Noon
Pastor Matt's Office Hours Mon-Thu, *by appointment*.
→ *Please note:* Pastor Matt observes Sabbath every Friday ←

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.



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