



# St. John's

Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 25, 2026

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## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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*Founded by German immigrants in 1745, St. John's Lutheran Church is one of the oldest congregations in the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are part of a rich heritage that now spans 184 congregations and 45,000 Lutherans in North Carolina, nearly 3 million ELCA members across 65 synods in the United States, and a global communion of 78 million Lutherans through the Lutheran World Federation.*

*From a humble meetinghouse in 1745 to our place in the global body of Christ, St. John's continues to share God's love far beyond our own walls, living into the promise of the communion of saints.*

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### SERVICE NOTES

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- ❖ A printed cross  $\dagger$  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.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is **Setting Four** from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

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### ALTAR FLOWERS

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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.*

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### PRAYER LIST

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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.*



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### CONFIRMATION CLASS POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK

Because of a high likelihood of inclement weather, we have postponed confirmation class to next week, February 1, at 8:45am above the sanctuary.

### MONDAY NIGHT MEAL & BIBLE STUDY POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 9

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

### 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.

### BACKPACK MINISTRY

The Sonshine Backpack Ministry is grateful to all who have purchased bottle lights during the past year. The proceeds from the bottle lights totaled \$1,256.00. This generous donation will feed 4 children for an entire school year. These hand painted lights were created with care and love. Many children and families in our community will benefit from this act of kindness and generosity. Thank you for shining your light for Jesus!

### 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!

### LUTHERAN MEN AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

All Lutheran men are invited to join the party on January 27 at 6pm in the Fellowship Building.

### 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.

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## ⊕ GATHERING ⊕

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

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### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*

Friedell

#### CONFESSiON & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ⊕ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. **Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ⊕ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW #726

1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to  
 2 Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once for -

see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a  
 bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a

weary world: the promised day of justice comes.  
 weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.  
 weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
 the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
 as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

## 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.* Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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## † WORD †

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

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## TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

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

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1-4

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

## PSALM 27:1, 4-9

We read a portion of Psalm 27 responsively.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> One thing I asked of the Lord;  
this I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

he will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Now my head is lifted up

above my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,

you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,

O God of my salvation!

## SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

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

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For 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.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in G major (two sharps) and the second is in C major (no sharps or flats). The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" and "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." The music is simple, with mostly quarter notes and a few eighth notes, set to a steady beat.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-25

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

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis, and he cured them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Come, Beloved of the Maker*

ELW #306



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -  
2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those  
3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low  
4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -  
5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose

hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's  
bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in  
to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of  
splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and  
glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and

splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.  
wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."  
an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.  
height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.  
splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

## 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

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## PEACE

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

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## † MEAL †

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### OFFERTORY

*Go Light Your World*

Rice

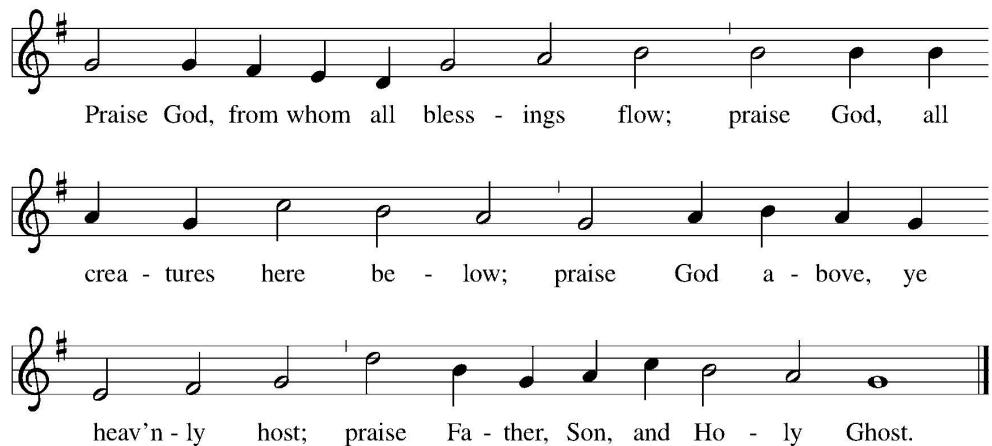
### OFFERING

*You may give online, by visiting [www.stjohnsconcord.com/give](http://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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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.*

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## † SENDING †

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

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## BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

ELW #866

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God,  
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,  
 si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

### *Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*

15th c. English Carol

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## SERVING TODAY

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**The Reverend Matt Hansen** *Pastor*

**Catherine Ritch** *Organist*

**Sandy Hickman** *Lector*

**Jim & Susan Hayes, Bonnie Shoaf** *Communion Assistants*

**Stan Parnell, Larry Allman, Bob Blackwelder & Gerald Cline** *Ushers*

**Rowland Family** *Livestream Support*

**Ellen Goodman** *Nursery Attendants*

**Diane Miller, Anne Shuping** *Altar Guild*

**Carl Walker** *Teller Lead*

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## CONTACT US

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### BY PHONE

**Melinda Redding, Church Office** (704) 436-6081

**Melinda's Mobile** (704) 213-0784

**Pastor Matt's Mobile** (612) 704-2828

### ONLINE

**Office Email** [office@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:office@stjohnsconcord.com)

**Pastor Matt's Email** [matt@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:matt@stjohnsconcord.com)

### 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 ←

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



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