



# St John's

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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

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- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is **Setting Ten** 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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## HOLY COMMUNION

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- ❖ *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.*

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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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### LENTEN MIDWEEK MEALS & SERVICES

Throughout the season of Lent (beginning Feb 25), we will have congregation meals at 6pm in Goins Hall and contemplative worship in the sanctuary at 7pm.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETS MONDAY

We will meet February 23 at 6:30pm in the conference room behind the sanctuary.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS THURSDAY

We will meet February 26 at 6:00pm in the conference room behind the sanctuary.

### THANK YOU

Thank you, my St. John's Family, for all the cards, calls, text and visits during my recent surgery. These gestures came at an important time when my spirits needed an uplift. I am improving every day and I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation. *-Annette Herring*

### HOMECOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

Homecoming will take place Sunday, September 27, 2026. *Please note the date change.* Our preacher will be the Rev. Emily Hartner, Bishop of the North Carolina Synod.

### OPEN DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH POSITION

Know someone who would be a good fit for our open Director of Discipleship & Outreach position? Refer them by emailing [work@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:work@stjohnsconcord.com)

### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all bulletin announcements to [announcements@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:announcements@stjohnsconcord.com) or use the online form via Mailchimp.

### MEMBER BREEZE ACCOUNTS

Have you updated your Breeze profile yet? Added a photo? Reviewed your contact information? You can do all these things by logging into your account. To access Breeze, click "Member Login" on the **Belong** menu option at [stjohnsconcord.com](http://stjohnsconcord.com). If you need assistance accessing your account, please email [matt@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:matt@stjohnsconcord.com).

The logo for 'breeze' is displayed in a lowercase, bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'b' is significantly larger and more stylized than the other letters, which are in a standard weight.

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

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### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*On Eagle's Wings*

Joncas/arr. Wagner

### CONFESSION & 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

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW #618



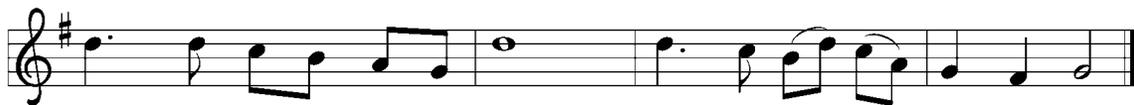
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

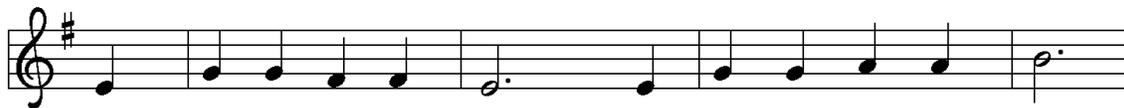


feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## 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.

## LENTEN KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.* Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you test us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 pastor.*

## FIRST READING: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## PSALM 32

We read Psalm 32 responsively.

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup> While I kept silent, my body wasted away

through my groaning all day long.  
<sup>4</sup> **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah**  
<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah  
<sup>6</sup> **Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you; at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**  
<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah  
<sup>8</sup> **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.  
<sup>10</sup> **Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**  
<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## 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.

## LENTEN PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, we pray for your holy Church; **That we may be one in Christ.**

Grant that every member of our congregation may truly and humbly serve you; **That your name may be glorified among all people.**

We pray for bishops, pastors, deacons, and all servants of the gospel; **That they may be faithful stewards of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our lives, marked by the cross, may show forth your mercy.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially...; **That they may be upheld by your steadfast love.**

Receive into your mercy those who have died; **Let your light shine upon them.**

We praise you for the saints who have entered into joy; **Bring us also to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **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

*Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man*

### 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

Musical notation for the offering song, consisting of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: 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 our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. **Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

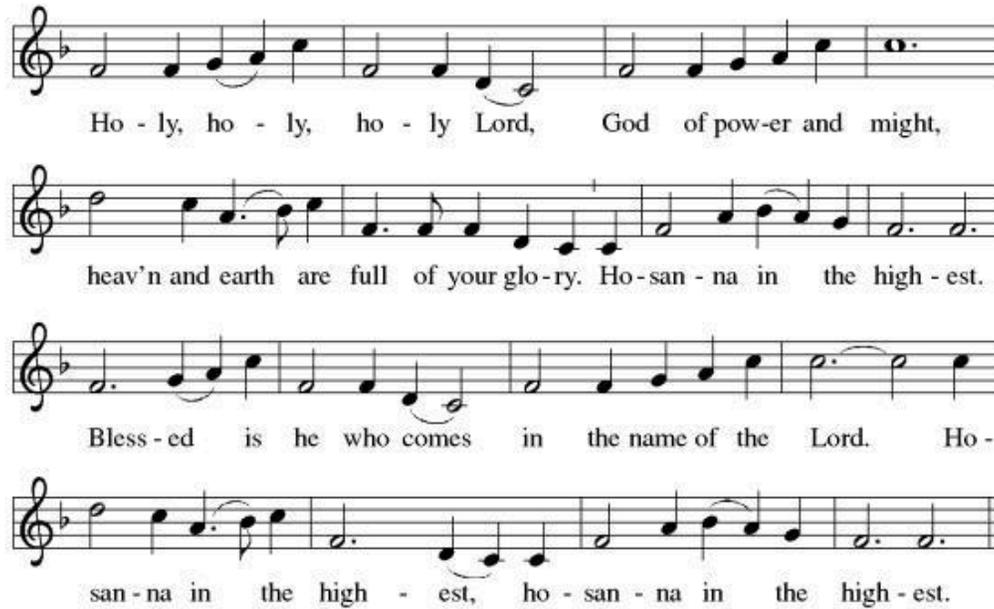
### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## COMMUNION SONG

*Lamb of God*

ELW Setting 10



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray together.* God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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

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

### SENDING HYMN

*Oh, Love, How Deep*

ELW #322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

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## SERVING TODAY

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**The Reverend Matt Hansen** *Pastor*

**Catherine Ritch** *Organist*

**Vera Drye** *Lector*

**Jim & Susan Hayes** *Communion Assistants*

**Davis & Roman Dorton, Troy Miller & Bob Shuping** *Ushers*

**Hartsell Family** *Livestream Support*

**Jennifer Suther & family** *Nursery Attendants*

**Anne Shuping** *Altar Guild*

**Angela Ferguson** *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.*

