



# St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 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 Rev. Matt Hansen in honor of the people of St. John's on the anniversary of his ordination (May 9, 2024).

*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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### **WELCOME BACK PASTOR TENNY**

Our guest musician today is the Rev. Tenny Shifley. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us!

### **FAITH NIGHT AT THE CANNONBALLERS**

May 29th is Faith Night at the Cannonballers. We have a group of 20 tickets available. The cost for each ticket is \$13. Please let the church office know if you want tickets.

### **GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

If you know of anyone who will be graduating this year please let the church office know. We will be having Graduate Recognition on Sunday, May 17.

### **THRIVENT-SPONSORED LUNCH AND BENEFITS PRESENTATION**

Following worship on June 7th, Thrivent will host a complimentary luncheon and go over ways to utilize your member benefits and help ministries like St. John's. The event will take place in Goins Hall. If you are interested in attending, please let the church office know.



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## ‡ GATHERING ‡

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

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### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us; for Dutch Buffalo Creek, Cold Water Creek, and the Rocky River. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**



- 1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
- 2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
- 3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
- 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
- 5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!  
 thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!  
 bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.  
 for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.  
 On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

## 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



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
 "Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
 and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.* Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through 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: ACTS 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Christ is risen! This is the Word of life. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 66:8-20

We read a portion of Psalm 66 responsively.

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

<sup>9</sup> **who has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;**

<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

<sup>13</sup> **I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,**

<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;**

**I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.

<sup>19</sup> **But truly God has listened;  
he has heard the words of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

## SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Christ is risen! This is the Word of life. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

## THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

## 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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### 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

*Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray together.* Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

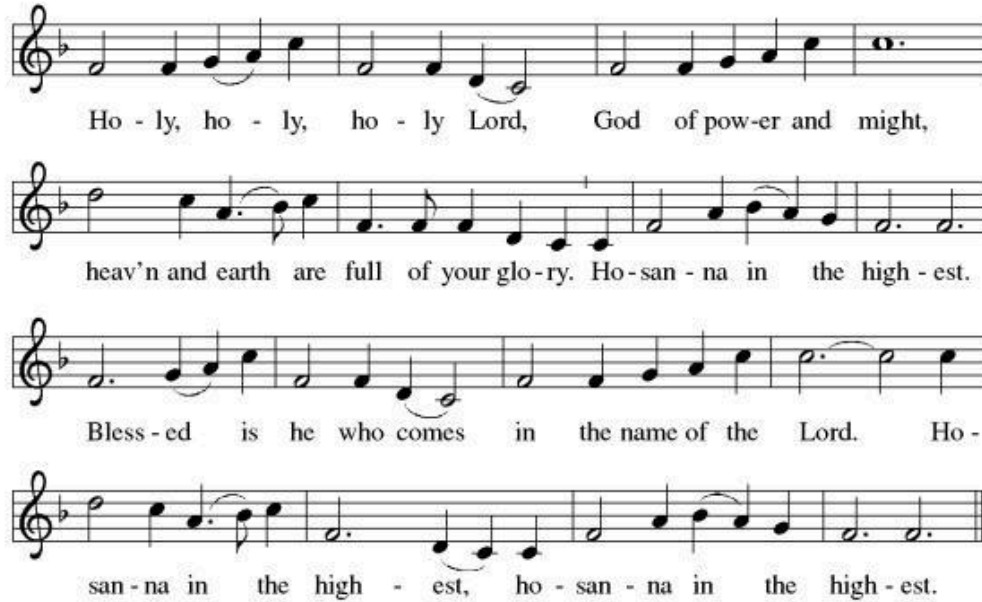
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## **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 of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Let us pray together.* **Holy God, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, 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, Sing to the Lord*

ELW #822

1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*  
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

*¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!*  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

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The Reverend Matt Hansen *Preaching & Presiding*  
The Reverend Tenny Shifley *Guest Musician*  
Deane Moorehead *Lector*  
Diane Miller, Dianne McCord, Jennifer Suther *Communion Assistants*  
John DeVitto, Kevin Edwards, Charles Eudy *Ushers*  
Hartsell Family *Broadcast Team*  
Peyton Trexler & Natalie Ray *Nursery Attendants*  
Diane Miller *Altar Guild*  
Janet Lentz *Teller Lead*

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## CONTACT US

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### BY PHONE

Church Office (704) 436-6081 *(Please leave a voice message)*

### ONLINE

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

Bulletin Announcement Email [announcements@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:announcements@stjohnsconcord.com)

### ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church Office Hours Mon-Fri, 8am to 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.*

