



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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.
 - ❖ Today's liturgy is **Setting Twelve** from *All Creation Sings*.
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ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Sheryll Garfola.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ❖ 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

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*.

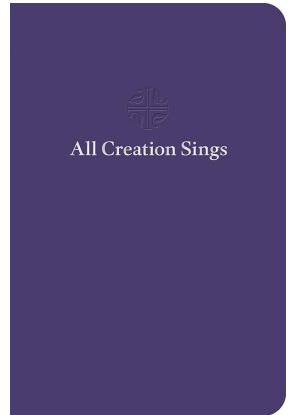
To add a name, please submit a request through our website or contact the church office.

Scan the QR code below to view the current list.



ALL CREATION SINGS SETTING 12

This fall, we are introducing a new liturgy from *All Creation Sings* (ACS), a worship and song supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (the cranberry hymnal at your pew). Published in 2020, *All Creation Sings* expands the church's worship resources with new hymns, prayers, and liturgical settings that reflect the breadth of the church's song today. It does not replace our familiar cranberry *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, but stands alongside it, giving us additional ways to sing the good news of Jesus Christ.



Setting 12

During worship today, we will use Setting 12 from *All Creation Sings*. Like the settings of Holy Communion found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting 12 provides music for the congregation's sung responses throughout the liturgy—from the Kyrie and Gospel Acclamation to the Holy, Holy, Holy and Lamb of God.

Some of this music will be new to us, and that is part of the invitation. The church's song has always included both treasured words and melodies handed down through generations and new songs that give voice to faith in our own time. As the psalmist proclaims, "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful" (*Psalms 149:1*).

As we learn Setting 12 together, listen, join in as you are comfortable, and allow these new melodies to become part of our shared prayer and praise.

Why do we worship the way we worship? What does "kyrie" mean? What's a "gloria?"

Join Pastor Matt for an all-church Sunday School at 9am on September 13 in the sanctuary as we do a deep dive into our church's liturgy. During this special Sunday School, we will review a "narrative bulletin" which describes the history, scriptural references, and theological significance of each part of our Sunday service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LABOR DAY OBSERVANCE

The church office will be closed tomorrow, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day. We will also not have Monday Evening Bible Study.

NEXT SUNDAY: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS + FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Mark your calendars for family fun and service at the St. John's Community Center next Sunday afternoon from

VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS THIS FALL

The Fall Via de Cristo weekends are coming up! The men's weekend is September 24th-27th, the women's weekend is October 1st-4th, and the mixed weekend is October 8th-11th. These weekends will be held at Camp Bethelwoods in York, SC. We have several members on teams this Fall. For men's weekend: Rathel Goodman, David Johnson, & Pr. Keith Copeland. For women's weekend: Ellen Goodman, Susan Hayes, Carol Hinson, Melanie Hudson, Cheris Copeland, and Bonnie Shoaf. Feel free to

HOMECOMING MUMS

Orders are being taken for mums to be placed in the church for Homecoming Sunday on September 27th. The cost for each mum is \$10.00 (wrapped and bowed in a 6" pot). They may be placed in memory or honor of someone. You may pick up an order form from the Narthex, online, or by calling the church office.

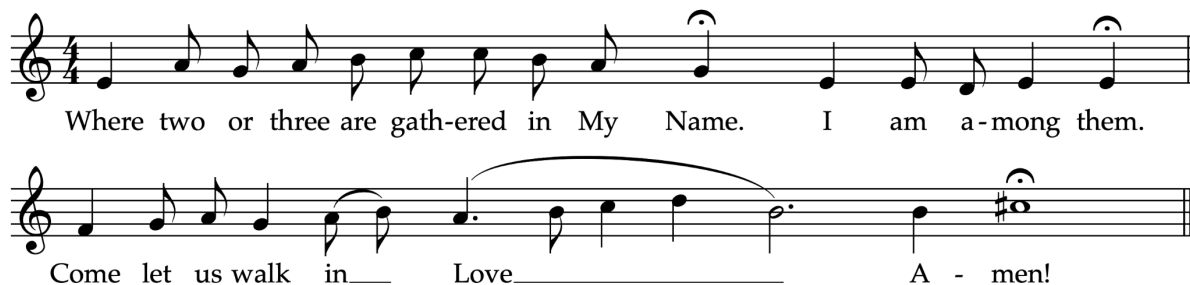
THE CLASSIC OCTOBER TRIP

On October 4th we will journey to the Classic Restaurant in Denton following Worship. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex with the number in your party if you plan to attend or call the church office. reach out to any of these folks. Via de Cristo is a great gift you can give to yourself!

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

INTROIT



Where two or three are gathered in My Name. I am a-mong them.

Come let us walk in Love A - men!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Pastorale in C

Walter Haynes

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God, have mercy on us. **We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

How Firm a Foundation

ELW #796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



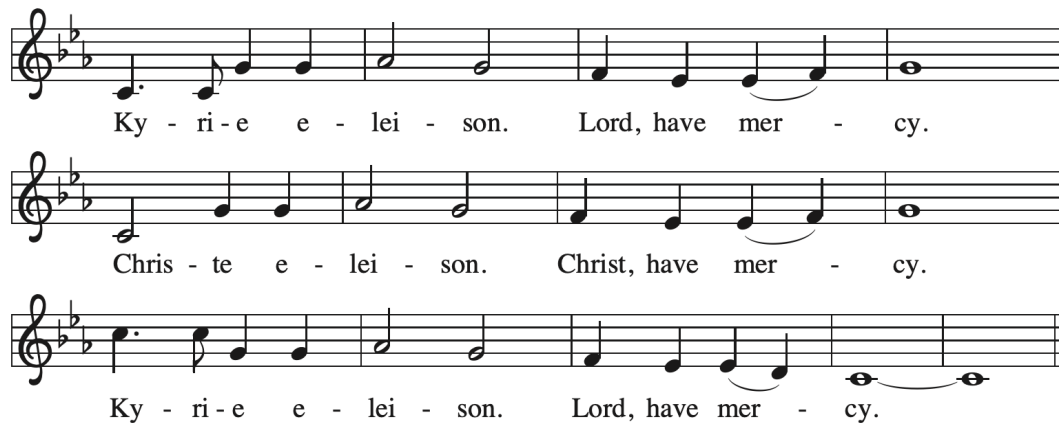
who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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.**

KYRIE

All Creation Sings Setting 12



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA

All Creation Sings Setting 12



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through 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 minister.

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM: 149:1-9

The assembly responds with the refrain. The Deacon reads the text.

Refrain:



¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song,
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² Let Israel rejoice in their maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

³ Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp. **Refrain**

⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in the people
and adorns the poor with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶ Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two-edged sword in their hand, **Refrain**

⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles with links of iron,

⁹ to inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah! **Refrain**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All Creation Sings Setting 12



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Still Lead On

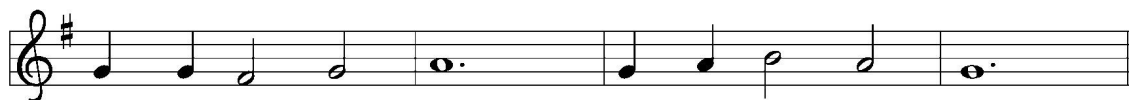
ELW #624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

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

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

PEACE

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

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Beside Still Waters

Benjamin Harlan

OFFERING

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

OFFERTORY

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.

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

All Creation Sings Setting 12

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body 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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW #471

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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

The Church's One Foundation

ELW #654



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Kleine Fuge

Theophil Forchhammer

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	<i>Pastor</i>
The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry	<i>Director of Discipleship & Outreach</i>
Dr. Kevin Carmody	<i>Director of Music</i>
Carol Hinson	<i>Lector</i>
Jim & Susan Hayes, Rathel Goodman	<i>Communion Assistants</i>
Roman & Davis Dorton, Bob Shuping	<i>Ushers</i>
David Rowland	<i>Broadcast Team</i>
Don & Paula Ritchie	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Bonita Rowland	<i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Connor Rowland	<i>Teller Lead</i>

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

Church Office (704) 436-6081

ONLINE

Office Email office@stjohnsconcord.com

ON-SITE

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

Church Office Hours Mon-Thu, 8am to 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.

