



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 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*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

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.

PRAYER LIST

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

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY WEEKEND

St. John's will again be participating in a Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at the Foothills Maximum Security Correctional Institution in Morganton, NC. The weekend will be November 5-8, 2026. It is a blessing to see the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of these young men. You can go into the institution as part of God's team through your donations of prayers and money which power the light of Christ that shines into the darkness. It cost \$5 to sponsor a meal, or \$30 to sponsor a table, or \$210 to sponsor an entire meal. The checks can be made out to KAIROS NC and given to Gerald Cline or Jim Hayes, or put in the offering. Be sure to put in the Memo section: FOOTHILLS. You can also donate online at <http://www.kairosfcinc.org>. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a letter from Kairos acknowledging your contribution. We will be working on preparing Prayer signup sheets which will be available in Sunday School Rooms, the Narthex and outside the church office. Your participation in this Kairos Prison Ministry is greatly appreciated! All of us together with Christ make a difference!

TRUNK OR TREAT

All ages are invited to dress up and decorate their vehicles for Trunk or Treat on October 25 from 4pm to 6pm. A grab-and-go dinner will be provided. If you are bringing a decorated car, arrive no later than 3:30pm. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex so we know how many cars to expect. See Deacon Brittany with any questions.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting will be Tuesday, October 27th at 6 pm.

REFORMATION/NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday is October 25th. The Frantz family – Michael, Stephanie, Gilbert and Lewis – will be joining the church that day. Join us in welcoming them!

PR. MATT ON VACATION

Pastor Matt will be on vacation from October 11-15. Please contact the church office for pastoral care during this time.

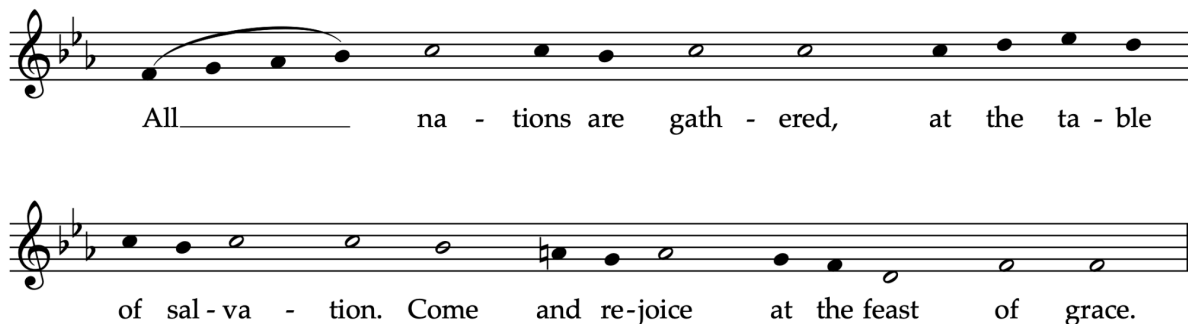
THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who contributed food for our Homecoming food drive. We collected 274 pounds of food for the Mt. Pleasant Food Bank.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

INTROIT



PRELUDE

Prelude (No. 1 from Well-tempered Klavier)

J.S. Bach

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

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

ELW #873

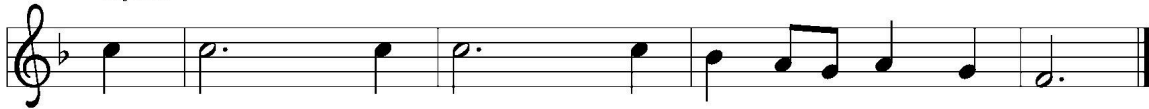


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

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



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

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. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through 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: ISAIAH 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

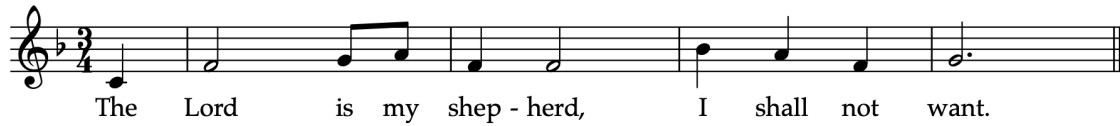
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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

PSALM 23

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



¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake. **Refrain**

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me. **Refrain**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 22:1-14

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

✙ MEAL ✙

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

My Good Lord's Done Been Here

Rolo Dillworth

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

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, with the Bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

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.**

When our congregation last gathered in worship, we heard again of God's mighty acts and the love shown to us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We shared in the holy meal of the Lord's supper. Now we bring to you this word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, so that you may share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "in the night in which he was betrayed, 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."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

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

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW #501



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

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.

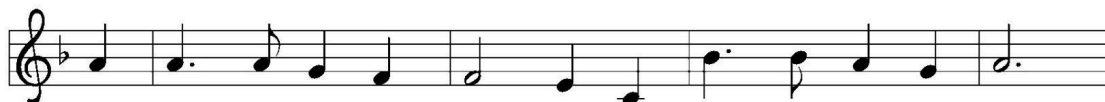
BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW #820



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Theodore Dubois

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry *Director of Discipleship & Outreach*

Dr. Kevin Carmody *Director of Music*

Patti Fletcher *Lector*

Gerald Cline, Patti Fletcher, Sheryll Garfola *Communion Assistants*

Jimmy Lentz, Carl Walker, Brandon Fletcher, Brad Cress *Ushers*

Emily Hartsell, David Rowland *Broadcast Team*

Ellen Goodman, Sheryll Garfola, Confirmants *Altar Guild*

Will & Annette Herring *Nursery Attendants*

Patti Fletcher *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

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ONLINE

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ON-SITE

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

Church Office Hours Tue-Fri, 8am to Noon (*closed for Columbus Day*)

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



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