



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
Preschool Sunday ✚ October 18, 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

The **altar flowers** are given by Bob and Anne Shuping to the glory of God and in honor of Yury Shuping's 20th birthday on October 23rd.

The **stand flowers** are given by John, Emily and Raegan Hartsell to the glory of God and in honor of Ryleigh Hartsell as she celebrated her 18th birthday on October 16th.

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.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME PRESCHOOL FAMILIES!

A special welcome to all preschool teachers, students, and families today! We rejoice in the opportunity to worship with you and we are grateful for your presence today and during the schoolweek. Please join us for a welcome reception behind the sanctuary before the Service.

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

This month's council meeting will be Tuesday, October 27th at 6 pm. Please note the date change.

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!

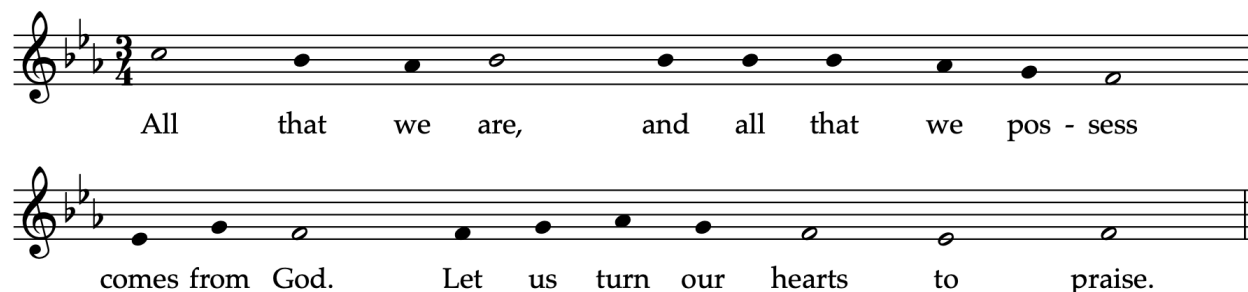
CLERGY APPRECIATION SUNDAY

November 25th is Clergy Appreciation Sunday. We will be honoring Pastor Matt, Deacon Brittany, and Licensed Lay Preacher Carol with a reception following worship.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

INTROIT



PRELUDE

Minuet and Trio in F

Ernest Dicks

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

Oh, Worship the King

ELW #842



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

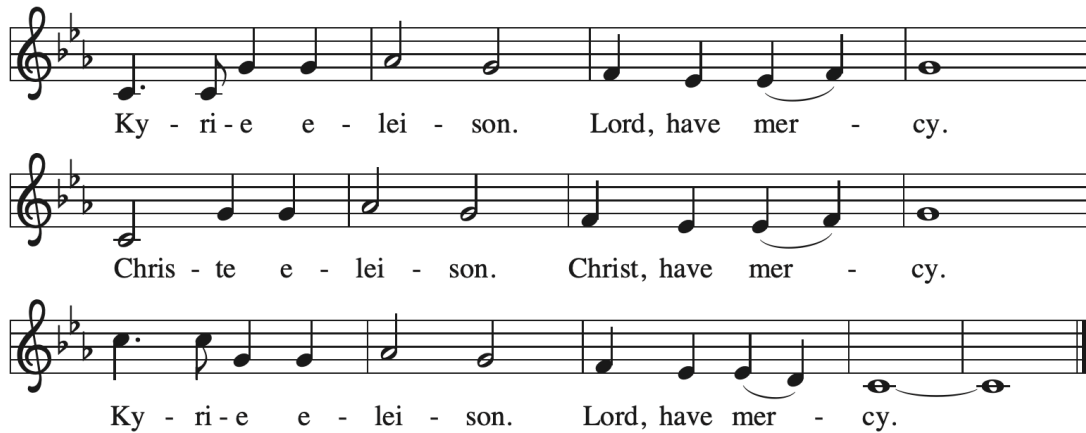


pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, 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 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

PSALM 96:1-13

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



- 1 O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods. *Refrain*
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts. *Refrain*
- 9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult and everything in it.
- Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
13 before the LORD, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-22

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

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

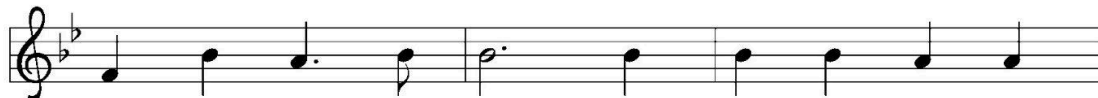
ELW #431



1 O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our
2 You came, the im - age of our God, to heal and to for -
3 Though some would make their great - ness felt and lord it o - ver
4 You chose a hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re -



king? What roy - al face have you re - vealed whose
give, to shed your blood for sin - ners' sake that
all, you said the first must be the last and
nown; you died for us up - on a cross with



praise the church would sing? As - pir - ing not to
we might rise and live. To break the law of
ser - vice be our call. O Christ, in work - place,
thorns your on - ly crown. But still, be - yond the



glo - ry's height, to pow - er, wealth, and fame, you
death you came, the law of love to bring: a
church, and home, let none to pow - er cling; for
span of years, our glad ho - san - nas ring, for



walked a dif - f'rent, low - ly way, an - oth - er's will your aim.
dif - f'rent rule of righ - teous - ness, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
still, through us, you come to serve, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
now at God's right hand you reign, a dif - f'rent kind of king!

BLESSING OF STUDENTS, FAMILIES, & THEIR TEACHERS

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (*Luke 18:16*)

Let us pray together. Loving God, we thank you for the gift of children—for their curiosity, their laughter, their wonder. Be with our preschoolers as they grow in heart, mind, and spirit. Bless their families with patience, wisdom, and joy as they nurture their little ones in love and learning. And bless their teachers with energy, creativity, and compassion. Amen.

Children of God, may you be filled with joy in your learning, comfort in your fears, and peace in all things. God goes before you and behind you, surrounding you with love every step of the way.

May you grow strong in body, mind, and spirit, knowing you are deeply loved by God and by us.

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers, God has entrusted you with a sacred task. May you find strength for the daily routines, wisdom in the uncertain moments, and grace for the times you feel stretched thin. Know that you are never alone. **We give thanks for you. We promise to walk with you, pray for you, and support you as you raise your children in faith and love.**

Teachers, assistants, and preschool leaders, God has called you to a beautiful and sacred work— shaping young minds, nurturing growing hearts, and creating safe places for discovery and delight. May you be filled with patience when days are long, encouragement when you feel weary, and joy in the daily gift of helping children grow. **We give thanks for your dedication and care. May God bless the work of your hands and hearts. You are a gift to this community.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, watch over these children and families. Bless their teachers and classrooms, their friendships and growth. Let your light shine through them, and may they always know they belong—to you, to this community, and to one another. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Calm Me, Lord

Margaret Rizza

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 clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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



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

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW #612

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.

SENDING HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW #818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Präludium et Fuga

Gottlieb Nitauff

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen *Presiding Minister*

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

Dr. Kevin Carmody *Director of Music*

Maria Moorehead *Lector*

Sheryll Garfola, Rathel & Ellen Goodman, Patti Fletcher *Communion Assistants*

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

David Rowland *Broadcast Volunteer*

Confirmants *Altar Guild*

Jennifer Suther *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 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.



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