

St. John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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

The 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

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY
Today, we will briefly meet following worship to approve our annual meeting agenda, nominations, and an organ repair proposal. Our annual meeting will follow worship on November 22nd.

POINSETTIAS
Poinsettias will be available to place in the Sanctuary during Christmas events in December. They can be placed in honor or memory of a loved one and the cost for each is $20. Order forms will be placed in the Narthex on November 15th and orders and money must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, December 6th. The poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary beginning December 8th until they are picked up following the Candlelight Service on the 24th or the Worship Service on the 27th.

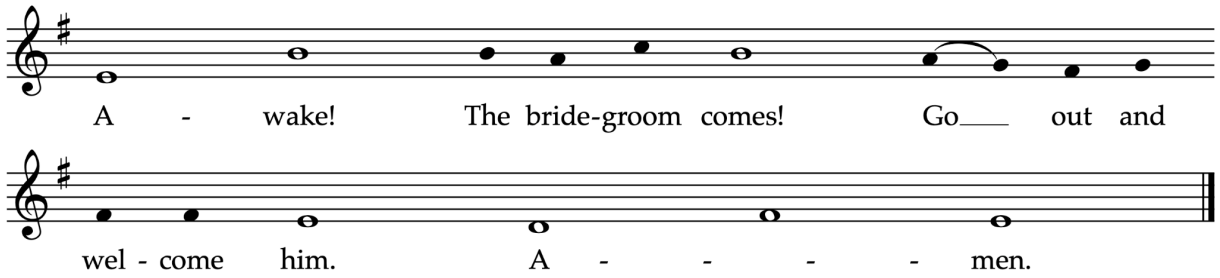
THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
Mark your calendars for Sunday November 22nd when we will enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon together with a variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts. The offering collected will be donated to CCM, Hospice, and Meals on Wheels. We will also gather food items for the Mt. Pleasant Food Pantry.

VETERANS DAY SERVICE
We will host a 1pm service to honor our Veterans on Wednesday, November 11th. All are welcome!

✢ GATHERING ✢

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

INTROIT



PRELUDE *Plein jeu* Jean Guilain

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

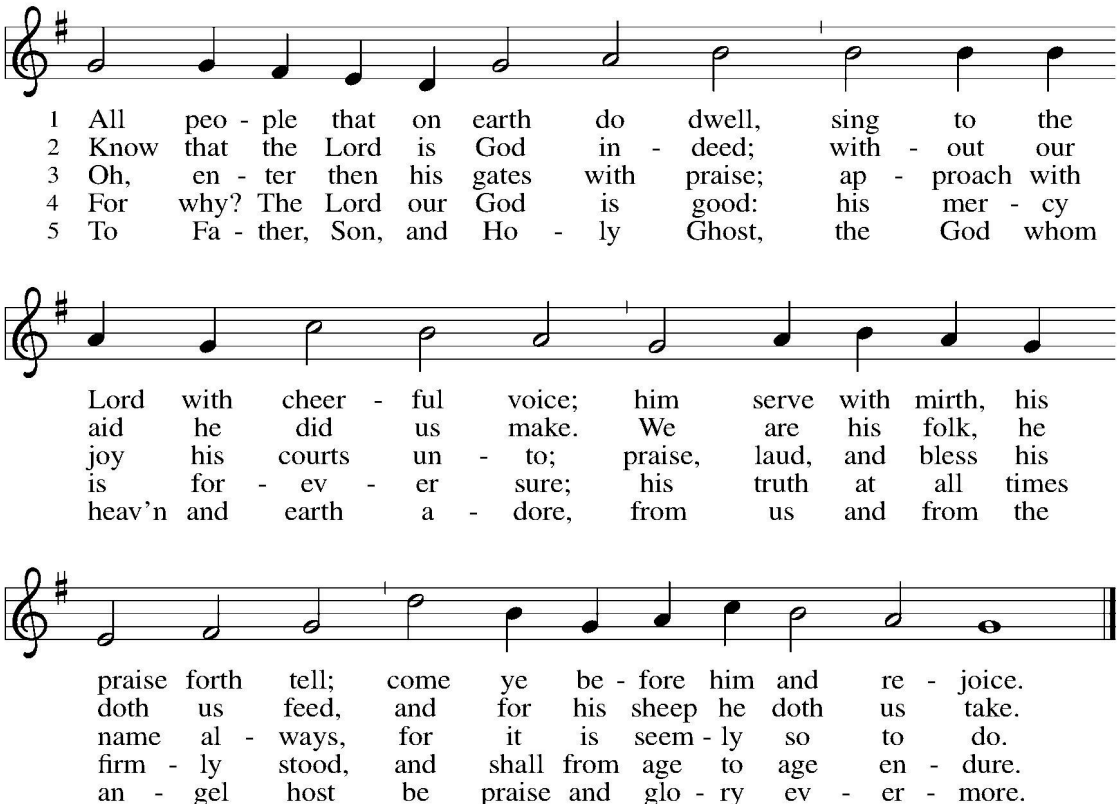
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

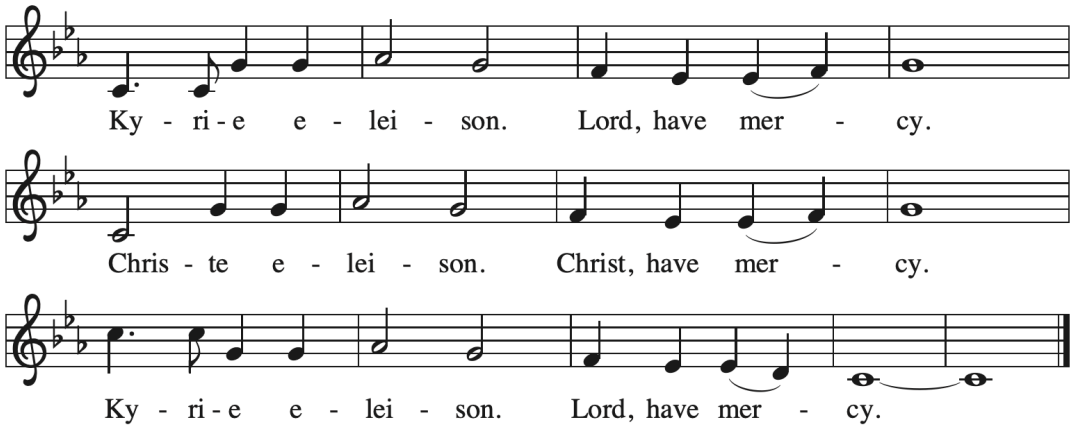
GATHERING HYMN *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* ELW #883



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



GLORIA



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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: AMOS 5:18–24

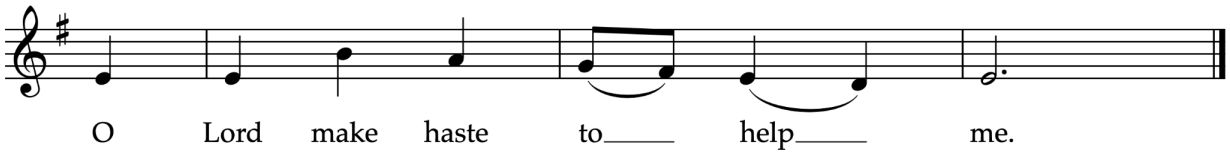
A reading from Amos.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM 70

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



[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
[2] Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
[3] Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame. ***Refrain***
[4] Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
[5] But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay! ***Refrain***

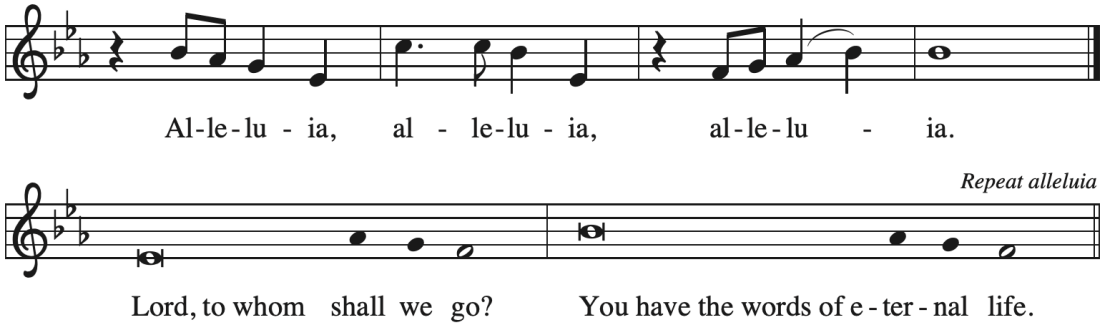
SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18

A reading from First Thessalonians.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1–13

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

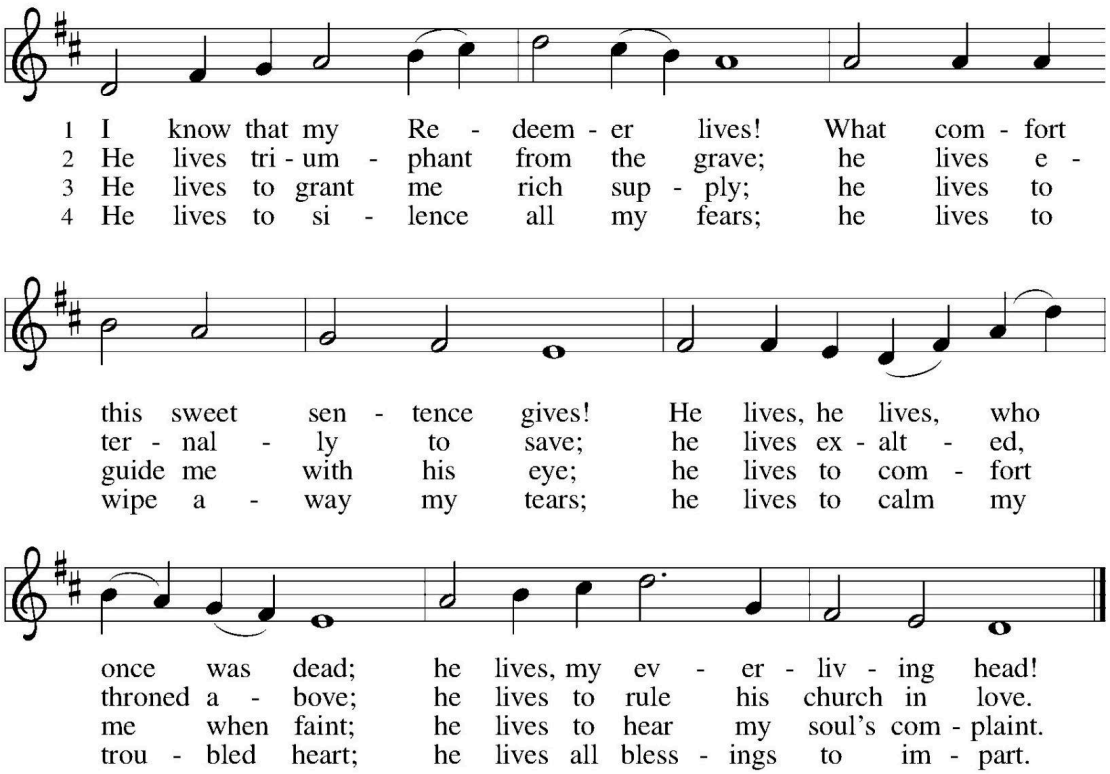
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As
the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout,
'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and
trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
[9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers
and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were
ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women
came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep
awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* (vv.1–4) ELW #619



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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict, particularly Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Relief of the Carolinas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. Uphold our veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter, help us to move more intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **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 *Will You Come And Follow Me* Trenney

OFFERING

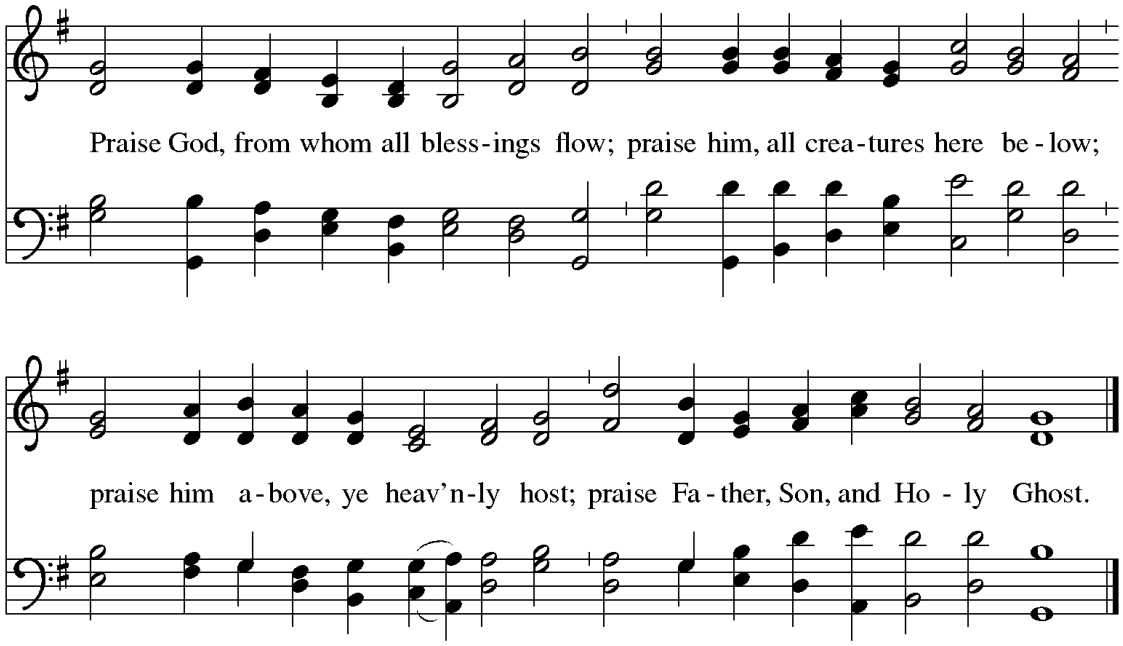
You may give online, by visiting www.stjohnsconcord.com/give or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. **Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow



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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world. Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ. 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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* ELW #759

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.**

✢ SENDING ✢

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING OF QUILTS & BABY CARE KITS

The congregation is invited to extend a hand toward the quilts and baby care kits.

God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world. **Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.**

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing. **Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.**

God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out. **Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.**

God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at Lutheran World Relief. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance. **Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.**

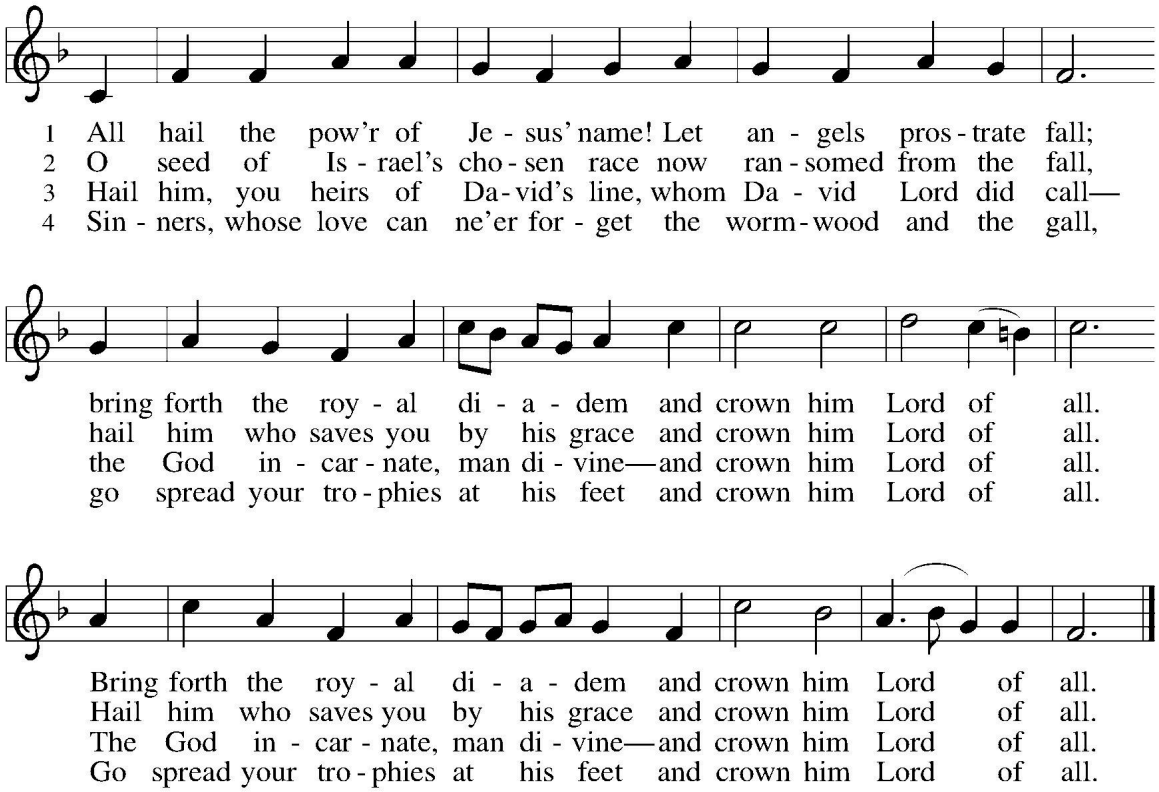
God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. **Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Recognizing God's abundant hope, go and be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far: offering hands to hold, sweet scents of justice, and a feast of God's goodness. In the name of the Father, ☩ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (vv.1–4) ELW #634



POSTLUDE

Andante (from the Surprise Symphony) Joseph Haydn

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	*Presiding Minister*
The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry	*Director of Discipleship & Outreach*
Dr. Kevin Carmody	*Director of Music*
Patti Fletcher	*Lector*
Melanie Hudson, Diane Hudson, Peyton Trexler	*Communion Assistants*
John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters	*Ushers*
Hailey Fletcher	*Broadcast Team*
Steve & Vera Drye	*Altar Guild*
Jennifer Suther	*Nursery Attendants*
Kevin Edwards	*Teller Lead*

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 1:30pm; Fri, 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.

St.John's

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