

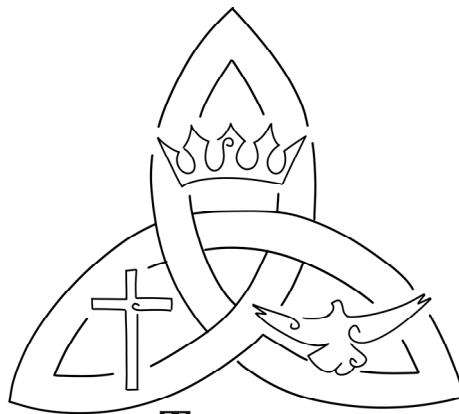
St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

The Holy Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026



Trinity
Sunday

Welcome!

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Welcome to Worship!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

OPENING LITANY FOR MORNING PRAYER

O Lord, I cry to you for help.

In the morning my prayer comes before you.

Give me the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let my mouth be full of your praise
and your glory all the day long.

Every day will I bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
**O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and
of the seas that are far away.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

He redeems my life from the grave,
and crowns me with mercy and lovingkindness.

Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OPENING HYMN “*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*”

ELW 413

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

And also with you.



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assisting: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN/YOUTH MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 8— *Read Responsively*

¹ O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

² **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴ **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵ Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶ **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷ all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸ **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹ O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

[Paul writes:] ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

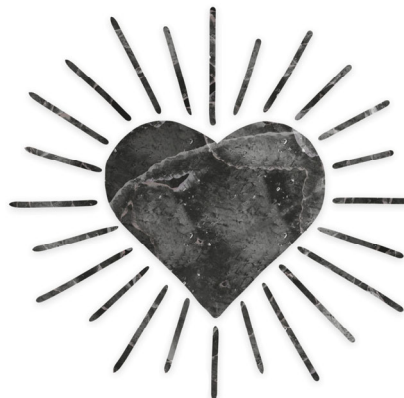
TEACHING ON THE ATHANASIAN CREED OF THE CHURCH

Scott Sprouse

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Come, Join the Dance of the Trinity"

ELW 412



THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another.

But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.

Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit. The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite. Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit: And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal; as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited. Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit: And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.

Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:

And yet there are not three gods, but one God. Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord: And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord. As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son. Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus became flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father, and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother— existing fully as God, and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body; equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ. He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity. He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures. For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man. He suffered death for our salvation. He descended into hell and rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, those who have done evil will enter eternal fire. This is the catholic faith. One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each prayer petition— God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ELW pg. 154

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.

THE PEACE

Assisting: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

*Our gifts and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church.
Plates are passed by the ushers.*

ANTHEM

*“Prayer for Guidance”
St. John’s Chancel Choir*

by: Allen Pote

THE OFFERTORY SONG

“The Doxology”

ELW 884

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above ye
heavn’ly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold us today and always.
Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN

“All Glory Be to God on High”

ELW 410

THE DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE





Welcome Guest Speaker, Scott Sprouse

We welcome Scott Sprouse as our guest speaker today. Thank you, Scott, for sharing your talents while Pastor Rachel is away.



Special Note for Worship on June 7, 2026 PASTOR EMILY WHITLOW STOLBA

Pastor Emily Whitlow Stolba will be preaching and presiding at Holy Communion at both services on Sunday, June 7. Pastor Emily served as seminary intern at St. John's during the 2023-2024 school year and was ordained in November 2024. She is married to Frank Stolba, who is an attorney in Columbia. Currently, Pastor Emily is in the call-process with the SC Synod. She most recently served as pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnston, SC. We welcome Pastor Emily and Frank back to St. John's!!

Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Guest Speaker: Scott Sprouse
Assisting: Adriana McMurphy
Lector: Tina Barrett
Interim Organist: Grace Lichtenwald
Choir Director: John Fallon
Greeters/Ushers: Judy & Marc Beck

Our Church Family

Gary Cabbage, rehab & healing (knee surgery)
Andera Stroud, healing-home
Jerry Cobb, healing/home
Joe Kent, healing
Polly Kent, healing
Jana Snelgrove, baby Jocassee born 3/20/2026
Beth Davis, health/healing
Tom Ward, treatment of a neurological disease
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Katie Johns, home, healing
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

Those Grieving

The family and friends of Peg Turner
Grace Lichtenwald, death of her brother, George Combes
The family and friends of Barbara Dahlquist.

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Jeanne Welch, Terra Bella Summit, Greenville
Betty Mantell, The Residences (Wells Highway)
Thelma Miller, The Residences (Wells Highway)
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home
Frances Carter, home/hospice
Marie Palmatier, home
Lynne Williams (Pawleys Island)



Other Prayer Concerns

For those affected by military actions in the Middle East..
For our country amidst on-going nationwide violence.
For wisdom for military leaders involved in the events unfolding in the Middle East.
For those dealing with loss from recent natural disasters and severe weather.
For all those who have lost their jobs due to recent government changes.
For peace for our country and protection for our government officials.
For colleges & universities across our country.
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun violence.
For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by violence.
For Bishop Ginny Aebischer and Synod staff
All military Personnel

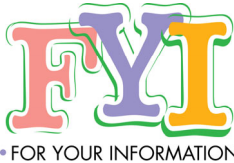
Our Extended Family and Friends

Jon Fowler, brain cancer (cousin of Wilson's)
Jean Deal, healing (sister-in-law of McLean's)
Tina Sanders, knee replacement 5/21 (friend of Jan Long)
Joan Kramer, successful treatment (friend of Williams')
Riley Medlin, cancer diagnosis (WHS student)
Stetson Underwood in NICU in Greenville (infant grandson of Kathy Radford)
The family of Doug Wilson and his wife Elaine
Kathy Quickel, healing (mother of Mike Goyne)
Doug Scanlon, healing (friend of Grace Schmeelcke)
Maggie Ormes, healing (friend of Mary Sprouse)
Billy Joe Lindley, healing (friend of Kents)
The family of Ruby Hendrix (grandmother of Travis Tilson)
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)
Karen Connelly Pierce, healing (Pastor Rachel's sister)
Teresa Newton, healing (friend of Kents)
Buffy McCarthy, healing (daughter-in-law Kathy Scherter)
Stephanie Williams, cancer/chemo (cousin/ Pastor Rachel)
Kathy Smith, liver cancer (cousin of Cathy Plowden)
Isabel Fogel, healing (granddaughter of Fogel's)
Dwight Amick, hospice (Stephanie Champion, step dad)
Danny Childress, comfort (nephew of Safrit's)
Larry Smith, (friend of Jane Harris)
Bonnie Blanchett, healing (mother of Ryan Raab)
E. Christian Gauderer, hospitalized in Lisbon, Portugal (brother of Michael)
Janelle Gibson, healing (Aunt of Jan Day)
Bob Lidwin, (nephew of Bill Pickard)
Erica McKee Skinner, healing (friend of Tina Barrett)
Ben Harding, healing (brother of Allen Harding)
Chad Cobb (son of Wilma)
Kay Davis, recovery (mother of Stephanie Champion)
George Rogers, lung cancer (half brother of Micky)
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)
Jacquelyn Moore, (niece of Kathy Scherter)
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)

Please let the church office know of any updates to our prayer list.



The Bell Tower— Ministry News



Pastor Rachel is on vacation from May 26-June 9. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, June 10. During this time, if you have a pastoral care emergency, please call Melissa at the church office at 864-638-6363 or Cathy Plowden, congregation President at 864-723-5454.



2026 LUTHEROAD DAY CAMP

St. John's is hosting Lutheroad Day Camp at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center on **June 22-26, 2026**. Camp runs 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 pm on Friday For children completing Kindergarten through 5th grade. Cost is only \$175 for the week and scholarships are available.

Registration deadline is June 1. Same family multiple child discounts available. *Registration forms are available in the church office.* Join us for a great week of fun for children of our church, grandkids, friends, and kids from the community!! For more information, contact the church office at 864-638-6363.



Peg Turner Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service for Peg Turner on **Sunday, June 14 at 2pm** in the sanctuary.



The altar flowers this week are given by Grace Lichtenwald to the glory of God and to commemorate the birthday of her husband, Eddie Lichtenwald and in memory of her brother, George Combes.



ST. JOHN'S MEET UP AND CONNECT CRAFT DAY Friday, June 16, 2026

Create a festive July 4th table decoration using sustainable materials. Craft will involve painting and using hot glue. **What to bring:** 3-14.5 oz cans. Cans should be clean, label and glue removed ready to paint. All other material will be provided. **Craft Leaders:** Alan and Mary Boggs **Class size:** To ensure adequate materials are available and time to complete the craft 20 seats are available. Sign up in Information Alley. For any questions, please call Alan Boggs: 864-499-4533



**CHURCH
OFFICE
STAFF**

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC
www.stjohnswalhalla.org
Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly
Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com

Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy
Email: stjohsadriana@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohsluther@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

Additional St. John's Staff
Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Cathy Plowden, Congregational President

WELCOME TO
church

Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey.

- Electronic offerings may be given through the GIVELIFY app.
- You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and click on the "Give Now With Givelify" button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

