

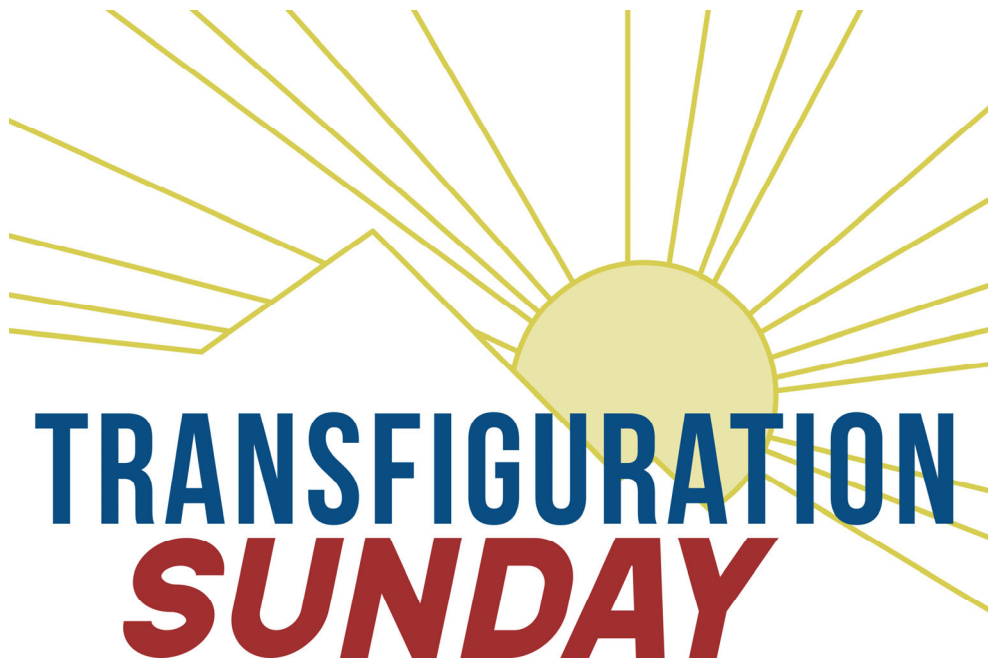
St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025



Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ!

++Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off all electronic devices during worship .++

## *Welcome to Worship!*

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GATHER

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

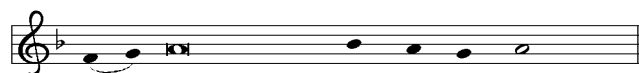
*ELW 834*

### GREETING

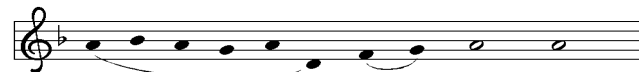
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

# KYRIE

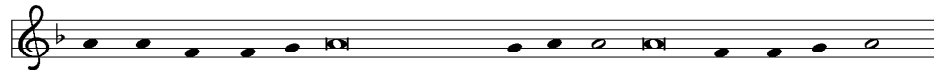
ELW pg. 156



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



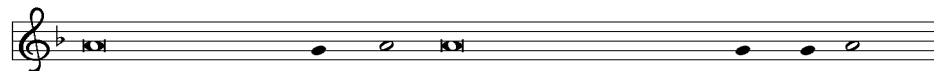
Lord, have mer - cy.



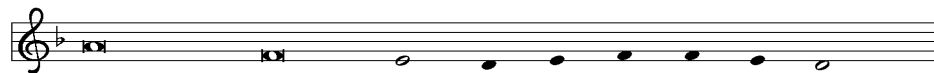
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



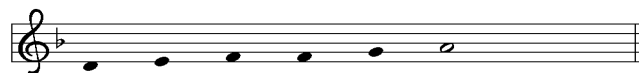
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



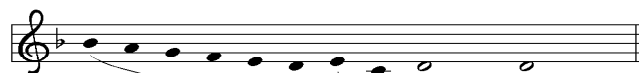
Lord, have mer - cy.



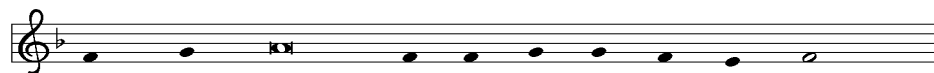
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

# GLORIA

Pg. 158

Assisting minister

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor -

ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have

mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone

are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

*Adriana McMurphy*

### THE FIRST READING

**Exodus 34:29-35**

<sup>29</sup> Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup> but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Psalms 99— *Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; let the people tremble.

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.**

<sup>3</sup> Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup> **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool;  
God is the Holy One.

<sup>6</sup> **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon  
your name, O Lord, they called upon you, and you answered them,**

<sup>7</sup> you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

<sup>8</sup> **O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's holy hill;  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

## THE SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

<sup>12</sup> Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup> but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*ELW pg. 160*



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

## Luke 9:28-36

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

THE SERMON

*Pastor Rachel Connelly*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!”*

*ELW 315*

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

THE PEACE

Pastor: 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.*

OFFERING ANTHEM

*“You Lord are Both Lamb and Shepherd”  
St. John’s Chancel Choir & Praise Band*

*Dunstan*

THE OFFERTORY

*“The Doxology*

*ELW 884*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye  
heavn’ly hosts, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**



## THE MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*ELW pg. 161*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THE PROPER PREFACE

#### SANCTUS

*pg. 162*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*pg. 163*

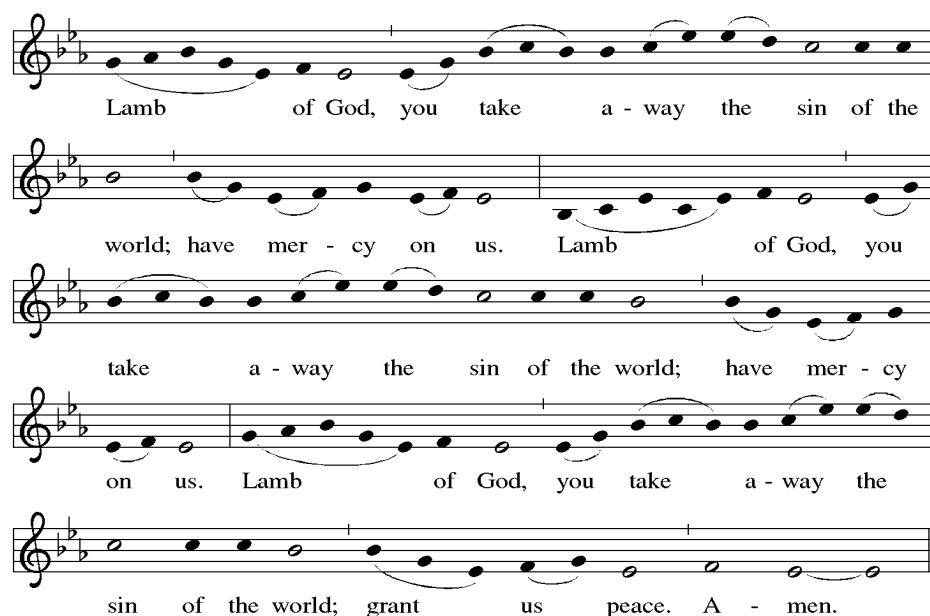
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMNS “Lamb of God”

pg. 164



“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

## THE PASTORAL BLESSING

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

### THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

### THE SENDING HYMN “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW 318

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### **Our Church Family**

Paul Wilson, healing  
Nancy Carter, recovery & rehab  
Jan Day, healing  
Grace Schmeelcke, healing from surgery  
PJ Daniels, recovery/healing  
Danny Daniels, healing from surgery  
Tiffany Chapman, healing from surgery  
Robert Smith, healing  
Thelma Miller, healing  
Katie Johns, home, healing  
Beverly Hardin, recovery  
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch  
Gary Cabbage (& Marsha), Gary—stroke/healing  
Brenda Safrit, healing

### **For Those Grieving**

The Family of Doug Deane  
The Family of Al Pittman  
Tom Ward and family, death of Tom's brother, Steve

### **Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living**

Ann Biemann, home  
Brenda Cantrell, home  
Linda Humphries, home  
Marie Palmatier, home  
Peg Turner, The Oaks  
Betty Wallace, Belvedere  
Bill Watt, home  
Jeanne Welch, home  
Jack & Lynn Williams (Pawleys Island)

### **Other Prayer Concerns**

For all those who have lost their jobs due to recent government changes.  
For all those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles.  
For all those needing assistance in NC and Tennessee.  
For peace for our country and protection for our government officials.  
For the Israeli hostages and their families.  
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 those impacted by natural disasters.  
All military Personnel  
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff



### **Our Extended Family and Friends**

The family of Tony Stapleton (friend of Snelgrove's)  
The family of Mildred Eades Wallace-Scott (aunt of Bob Craig)  
Cheryle Hurley, cancer & chemo (friend of Pastor Rachel)  
Dan Fogel, healing from surgery (son of Fogel's)  
Margaret Barger, healing (cousin of Brenda Safrit)  
E. Christian Gauderer, hospitalized in Lisbon, Portugal (brother of Michael)  
Sandy & Ron Fulton, cancer (friends of Scot & Linda Williams)  
Brian Hollen, kidney surgery (friend of Dolores Krueger)  
Delaine Hollandsworth, testing (daughter of Millie Hawbecker)  
Nancy Coleman, healing (friend of the Williams)  
Risaline Sioson, breast cancer (Sister of Josie Busch)  
Janelle Gibson, healing (Aunt of Jan Day)  
Bob Lidwin, late stage Alzheimer's (nephew of Bill Pickard)  
Erica McKee Skinner, healing (friend of Tina Barrett)  
Ben Harding, healing (brother of Allen Harding)  
Chad Cobb (son of Wilma)  
Ernestine Addis, healing/cancer (sister-in-law of Richard & Connie Addis)  
Josh McIntyre, recovery/healing (friend of Tina Barrett)  
Tommy Moss, lymphoma (brother of Tina Barrett)  
Kay Davis, recovery (mother of Stephanie Champion)  
Elizabeth Bateman, (friend of Safrits)  
Pam Hester, left eye blindness (cousin of Ann Brackett)  
Ruth Williams, ovarian cancer (sister of Grace Schmeelcke)  
George Rogers, lung cancer (half brother of Micky)  
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)  
Larry Greene, lung cancer (brother-in-law of Patty Shepard)  
George Combes, healing (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)  
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)  
Jacquelyn Moore, healing/MS (niece of Kathy Scherter)  
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)  
Jaime Henry, heart issues (son of Annie Henry)  
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)  
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)  
Tom Tyree, cancer (friend of Sears)  
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)  
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)  
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

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**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
&  
Mardi Gras Celebration  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 Supper at 6pm  
Burning of the Palms for Ash Wednesday at 7pm**

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**Ash Wednesday Worship  
March 5, 2025**

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion  
Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance  
as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.  
- Day service at **Noon** in the Sanctuary  
- Evening service at **7pm** in the Sanctuary  
- **4 to 6pm** “Drive By Ashes” on Church Street side of church

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The altar flowers this week are given by Grace Lichtenwald to the glory of God and in honor of Bob and Ellen Bell’s 85th birthdays.

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### 2025 LUTHEROAD DAY CAMP

St. John’s is hosting Lutheroad Day Camp at Biggerstaff  
Christian Retreat Center on  
**June 23-27, 2025**



**WHAT IS DAY CAMP?** It is a five-day program where many of the benefits of Camp Lutheridge come right to the local church. Trained counselors come for the week and share in a program that includes fun, worship, games, Bible study, fellowship, crafts, sharing and prayer.

- Deadline for Early Registration is May 1st.
- Camp runs 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 pm on Friday
- For children completing Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Cost is only \$160 (\$135 Early Bird Special) for the week and scholarships are available. Registration ends June 10. 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.

Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly  
Assisting: Andrea Carlson  
Lector: Tina Barrett  
Cantor: Robert Peirce  
Supply Organist: Grace Lichtenwald  
Guest Choir Director: Deb Blackmore  
Greeters/Ushers: Joan Lewis & Shonda Mahler  
Altar Guild: John Hewell & Beverly Hardin



**CHURCH  
OFFICE  
STAFF**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC**

[www.stjohnswalhalla.org](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org)

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

**Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly**

Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: [stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com)

**Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy**

Email: [stjohnsadriana@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsadriana@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley**

(864) 638-6363 or Email: [stjohnsluther@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsluther@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  
Lynn Pode, Congregational President

**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](http://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.

