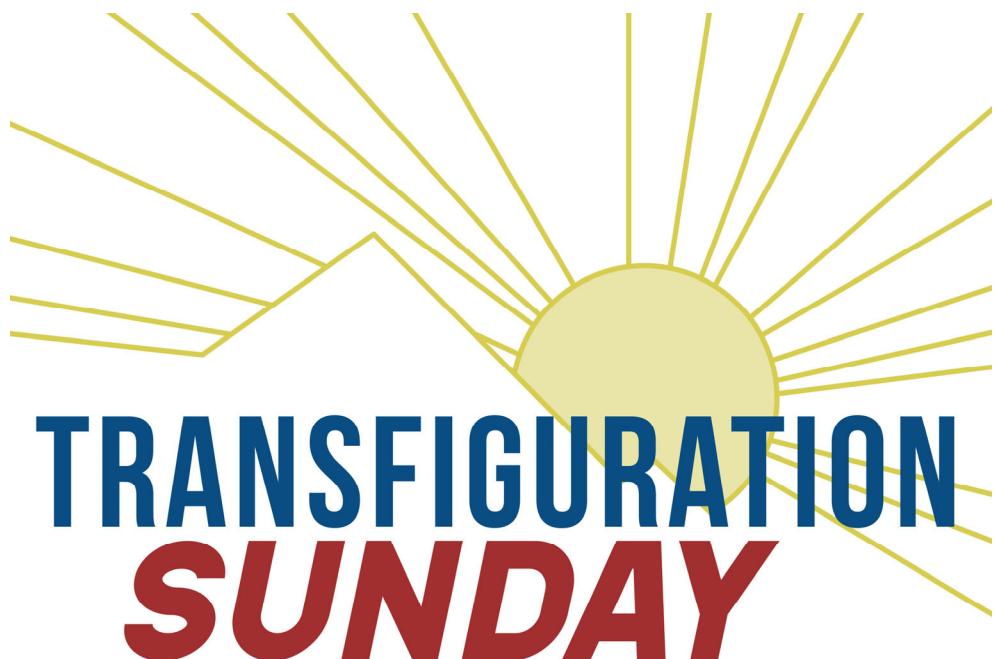


St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Walhalla, South Carolina
11 am Worship Service

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger 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 \dagger 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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

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 mercy.

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.



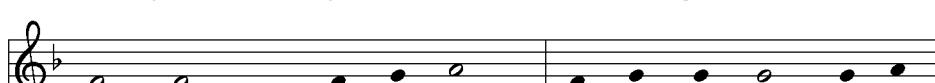
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



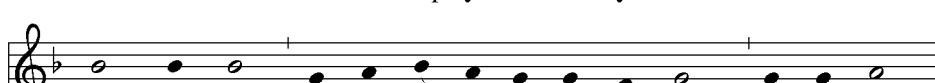
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



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

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ 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, ³⁵ 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.

Psalm 99—*Read Responsively*

¹ The Lord is king; let the people tremble.

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

² **The Lord, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.**

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

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

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

⁶ **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,**

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

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

⁹ 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

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ 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.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² 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

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ 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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A-men.

"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



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



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



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.



2025 LUTHERROAD DAY CAMP

St. John's is hosting Lutherroad 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

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

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnspastor.rachel@gmail.com

Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy

Email: stjohnsadriana@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley

(864) 638-6363 or Email: 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 and click on the “Give Now With Givelify” button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

