

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026



Welcome!

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Welcome to Worship!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

OPENING HYMN

"Earth and All Stars"

ELW 731

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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BAPTISM OF JOCASSEE TAYLOR BARLOW

(See insert)

"Baptized in Water"

ELW 456

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

YOUTH MESSAGE/BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

Adriana McMurphy

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21— *Read Responsively*

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**



THE SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

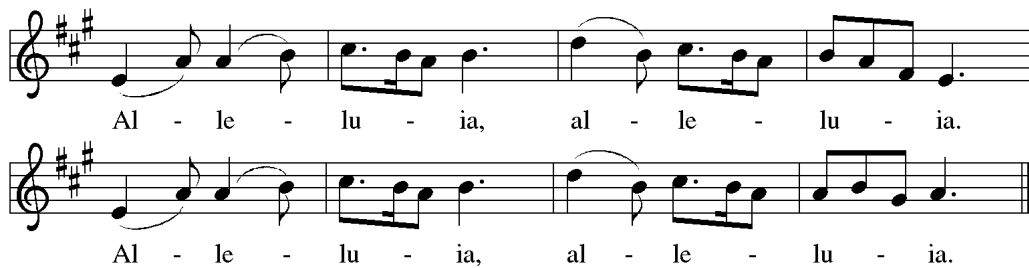
¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174



THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

THE SERMON

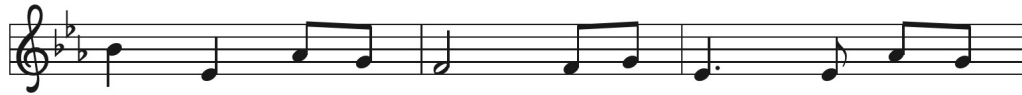
Pastor Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



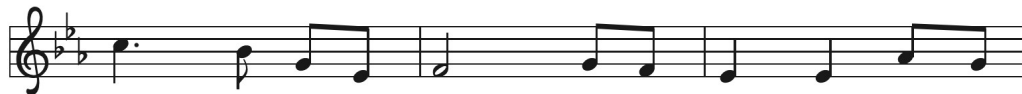
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each prayer petition— Merciful God, **receive 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.*

ANTHEM

“Shout to the Lord”

by: Darlene Zschech

Erika Dodgins - soloist

John Fallon - accompanist

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**



THE MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 152

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.

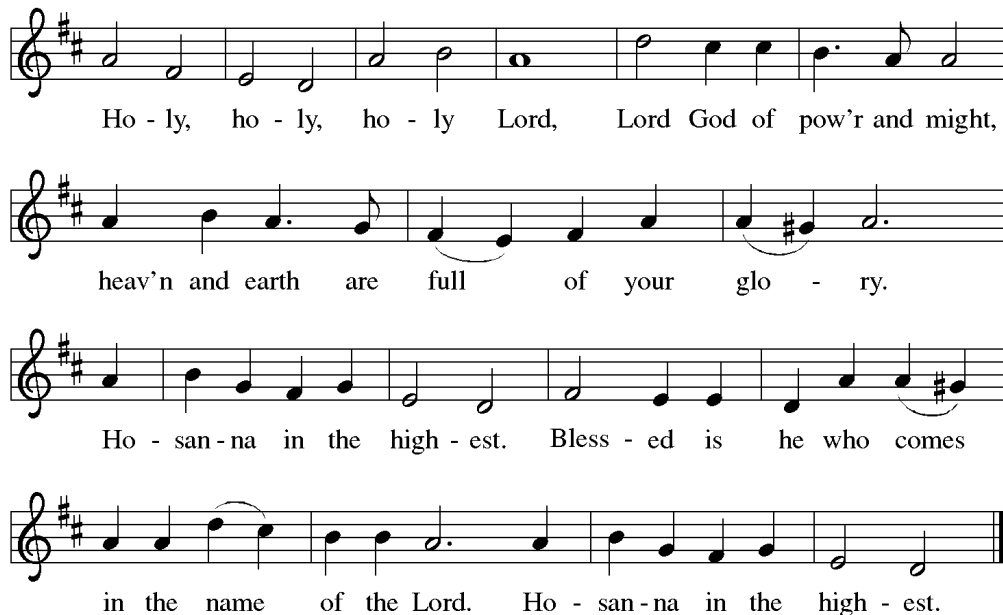
Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

ELW pg. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to His table for Holy Communion. Those who are not communing are invited to receive a blessing from the Pastor; please indicate this with folded hands. We have gluten-free wafers available.

Please let Pastor Rachel know your preference.

*The ushers will guide you as we practice continuous communion
We kneel or stand at the communion rail.*

Please join us in singing the communion hymns.

COMMUNION HYMNS

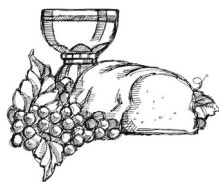
"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW 479



THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN *“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”* ELW 712

THE DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly
Assisting: Brenda Safrit
Lector: Brenda Safrit
Choir Director/Accompanist: John Fallon
Interim Organist: Grace Lichtenwald
Greeters/Ushers: Ryan & Christy Raab
Altar Guild: Martha Murtiashaw

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Our Church Family

Robert Smith (Dolly Johnson), healing
Sandy Yuda, healing
Gary Cabbage, healing
Chris Radford, healing
John Fallon, healing
Tina Barrett, healing
Andera Stroud, Foothills
Jerry Cobb, healing/home
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Katie Johns, home, healing
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch



Those Grieving

The family of Jeanne Welch
The family of Brock Jackson, (friends of Lattimore's)

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Betty Mantell, Lila Doyle
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 earthquakes in Venezuela.
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

Charlotte Eaker, breast cancer (sister-in-law of Ann Brackett)
Valarie Bentley (infant) hole in heart (Tina Barrett)
Mary Jane Rees, healing (mother of Rod Rees)
Bobbie Williams, hospice (aunt of Jan Day)
Susan Ward, cancer (daughter of Joan Lewis)
Joe & Peggy Dilworth, healing (brother & sister-in-law of Barbara Wilson)
Barbara Williams, hospice (mother of Cathy Plowden)
Jon Fowler, brain cancer (cousin of Wilson's)
Jean Deal, healing (sister-in-law of McLean's)
Joan Kramer, successful treatment (friend of Williams')
Riley Medlin, cancer diagnosis (WHS student)
Kathy Quickel, healing (mother of Mike Goynes)
Doug Scanlon, healing (friend of Grace Schmeelcke)
Maggie Ormes, healing (friend of Mary Sprouse)
Billy Joe Lindley, healing (friend of Kents)
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)
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 Safritt'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)
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

St. John's Meetup and Connect Wednesday, August 5 at Biggerstaff - 5pm-8pm



Mid Week Dip & Dive

MIDWEEK DIP AND DIVE - We are opening up Biggerstaff Retreat to the community Wednesday, August 5 from 5-8pm. BYO chairs, blanket, food and non-alcoholic drink, floats, etc. Because there is no lifeguard on duty, an adult 18+ must be present to swim. Life jackets are available. Event will be cancelled during inclement weather.

Email meetupandconnect@gmail.com for further information



CHOIR PRACTICE

On **Wednesday, August 12** at 6pm, church choir practices are resuming. Youth and families are invited and strongly encouraged to come participate and learn to make joyful noises together for the glory of God, led by our choir director John Fallon.



CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

On **Sunday, August 23** at 4pm, we will have a movie night at the church. Snacks will be provided. All are invited to come! Contact Adriana with any questions.



MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

On **Monday, August 24**, Monday Evening Bible study will begin again starting at 6pm at the church. Contact Adriana with any questions.



Wednesday Lunch

Wednesday Lunch starts again on **August 26**. We know that means DELICIOUS! All are welcome to join us at 11:30am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for tasty food, fun and fellowship. We ask for a \$5 donation towards the meal. Sign-up on Information Alley so we can estimate attendance.

This year we will be looking for "Guest Chefs" to prepare our meals. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to cook lunch for approx. 20 people on a Wednesday. Contact Joan Lewis with questions or if you would like to help.



CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnspastorrachel@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
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.

