



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 2025

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

- ❖ A printed cross ✝ is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ If you would like to use the church nursery during the service, please ask an usher for assistance.
- ❖ The homemade communion bread is gluten 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.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is Setting Eight from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

People of St. John's:

This week, we hear one of Jesus' most well-known stories: the Parable of the Good Samaritan. But this story doesn't start with a Samaritan or even someone in need. This story starts with a question, meant to test Jesus' grasp of God's law: *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*



Jesus provides a simple answer. But that's not enough for the questioner trying to test him. So Jesus responds with this story about a man left beaten and half-dead on the side of the road. The priest and Levite pass him by. The one who stops is the last person anyone expected: a Samaritan. This may not mean much to us today, but keep in mind, in the previous chapter of Luke, those Samaritans wouldn't even let Jesus stop for a night's rest. Jews and Samaritans were deeply divided. Perhaps that is key.

In this parable, Jesus shows how even our so-called enemies may very well be the ones we depend on. Regardless of what occurred before, in this parable, Jesus underscores the importance of what happens when *compassion* and *mercy* win the day.

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus our Lord, has defeated the forces that divide us. Now, we can live into this freedom, discarding anything that artificially separates us from our neighbor.

Who are today's Samaritans? Really think about it. Now remember the question that started the story. What must *we* do? Jesus lays out his will, one of compassion and mercy. And, thanks be to God, we are reconciled by the cross, so ... let's actually live like it.

Peace be with you,

✝ GATHERING ✝

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Collage of Favorite Hymns

arr. Ritch

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

ELW #750



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
2 Yea, Lord, thine own rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bos - om bear me home,



with ten - der mer-cy cheer me. Earth has no plea-sure I would share,
in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
that I may die un-fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep



yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, were not near me.
may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
Let no false teach-ing me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
And then from death a-wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,



my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, 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 Pastor Matt.

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14

A reading from Deuteronomy.

⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

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

PSALM 25:1-10

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ **Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of
your steadfast love,**

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ⁸ **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,**

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

A reading from Colossians.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

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

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW #714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

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

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Love of God

Lehman

OFFERING SONG

One Bread, One Body

ELW #496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
Refrain
wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW #802



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing from “Music for a Peace Celebration”

Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Shuping family in honor of Bob Shuping’s July 22nd birthday and Meredith Dorton’s July 12th birthday.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We will resume Bible Study on Monday, July 14 at 6:30pm.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM: FOLLOWING JESUS FROM PREPARATION TO PROMISE

A Three-Part Series for Families and the Community Join us for a reimagined Vacation Bible School experience this year at St. John’s! **Journey to Bethlehem: A Three-Part Series for Families and the Community** features three days (July 20, October 30, December 13) of faith-filled gatherings for all ages, each with hands-on activities, community service, and spiritual reflection as we follow Jesus from preparation to promise—leading us all the way to Christmas.

Our first stop on the journey:



Sunday, July 20

“Preparing for the Journey”

Theme Verse: *Isaiah 40:3 – “Prepare the way of the Lord!”*

Come for an afternoon of family fun and service as we partner with the **Sonshine Backpack Ministry** and support **Fresh Start**, helping prepare school supplies for children in our community.

SONSHINE BACKPACKS

The **Sonshine Backpacks** will partner with **Fresh Start** this summer. **Fresh Start** was formed to ensure children in the Mt. Pleasant Community have a “*Fresh Start*” as they start school in August. Each child receives new clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, a book bag and school supplies. The children will also have the opportunity to get a haircut. A Christmas tree is placed in the narthex with a variety of items needed to sponsor two young men in the Mt. Pleasant community. If you would like to help, please take a tag and purchase the item on the tag. Bring the item to church on or before July 20th. You may place the item(s) in the designated box. Please attach the receipt and the tag to the item. If the clothes or shoes do not fit, a Fresh Start volunteer will return and exchange the item. We will also collect a variety of school supplies. We do not need receipts for the school supplies donated. Please see the July Newsletter for details.

OFFERING DESIGNATION FOR TEXAS FLOODS

If you would like to make a donation for the people affected by the flooding in Texas, you may do so by designating on your check, envelope, or in the comment section online “Texas Flooding”.

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Care Concern

Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*recent hospitalization*), Ken Hayes, brother of Jim Hayes, (*upcoming surgery on July 14th*), Ronald Hurlocker (*Health condition*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*), Stan Parnell (*Health condition*), Al Sundling (*Health condition*), King Walters (*Health condition*),
Pr. Bob Young (*Health condition*)

Residents in Care Facilities

Larry & Faye Cline (*Trinity Oaks*), Pr. Don Deal (*Trinity Oaks*), Betty Ritchie (*Trinity Oaks*), Amelia Ritchie (*Terra Bella*), Martha Suther (*Brookdale Concord*), Joy Waddell (*Concord Living Center*), Kay Walker (*Brookdale Concord*)

Homebound

Pat Blackwelder, Gloria Casper, Nancy Deal, Judy Fisher, Elaine Petrea

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen *Preaching & Presiding*

Catherine Ritch *Director of Music*

Carol Hinson *Lector*

Sheryll Garfola, Anne Shuping, Diane Miller *Communion Assistants*

Phillip Casper, Keith Cook, Jeff Culp, Phil Fisher *Ushers*

Yury Shuping *Livestream Support*

Diane Miller, Sheryll Garfola *Altar Guild*

Jacob Sigler *Teller*

CONTACT US

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Admin Assistant's Office Hours Mon-Thu, 8am-1:30pm; Fri, 8am-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.



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