



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 20, 2025

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Founded by German immigrants in 1745, St. John's Lutheran Church is one of the oldest congregations in the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are part of a rich heritage that now spans 184 congregations and 45,000 Lutherans in North Carolina, nearly 3 million ELCA members across 65 synods in the United States, and a global communion of 78 million Lutherans through the Lutheran World Federation. From a humble meetinghouse in 1745 to our place in the global body of Christ, St. John's continues to share God's love far beyond our own walls, living into the promise of the communion of saints.

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

- ❖ **Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost.** The Season after Pentecost (the long, green season also commonly known as Ordinary Time) begins Trinity Sunday and ends on Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the church calendar year. This year, it will be November 23, 2025. This season focuses on discipleship and the teachings of Jesus. Our Gospel texts come from Luke.
 - ❖ **Today's altar flowers** are given by Troy and Diane Miller to the Glory of God and in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.
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SERVICE NOTES

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward during the distribution with your arms crossed.
- ❖ 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:

There's a moment in this week's Gospel that feels all too familiar: a flurry of things to do, the mental list growing longer, and the feeling that someone else isn't pulling their weight. Martha is doing everything she can to make Jesus feel welcome. She's got the Son of God in her house, after all! And Mary? She's just sitting there, hanging with the houseguest instead of getting things ready.



It's easy to side with Martha. After all, much of the world depends on people like her; those who are organized, capable, attentive to every detail. I think we have more than one at St. John's (I won't name names)

But Jesus gently reminds us that presence is more important than performance. "Mary has chosen the better part," he says, not to shame Martha, but to call her back to the one thing actually necessary: God in their midst.

At St. John's, many of us carry Martha's responsibilities. Those who are constantly running around, preparing meals and helping others. These acts of service are holy. But they are not the *only* holy thing. Sometimes the holiest thing is mere presence. Being in the presence of God at church. Being present with a loved one when they are going through something difficult. Being present, not offering solutions, not working to solve everything. Just being there.

Today's Gospel reminds us that discipleship is not always about doing more. Sometimes it's about stopping, breathing, and choosing the "better part." That is why we worship together Sunday morning. We are gathered from all the busyness of our day-to-day lives to be in the presence of the Living God, renewed by Word and Sacrament. But we're not left there, we don't remain at the feet of Jesus. Renewed by the gift of community, of Christ's presence, we are then sent, and ready to share God's love. But that doesn't mean we should just go, go, go. We need room for both...for serving and for sitting, for doing and for being. For seeing God at work.

You may be sitting while your neighbor may be serving. Or maybe the opposite. We don't need to police each other. Instead, we can give thanks to God for the joy and opportunity to do both.

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

What Is This Place

ELW #524



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and speak
we are each oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

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. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through 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: GENESIS 18:1-10a

A reading from Genesis.

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a} Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

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

PSALM 15

1 O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
2 **Those who walk blamelessly and do what
is right**
and speak the truth from their heart;
3 who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

4 **in whose eyes the wicked are despised**
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
5 who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be
moved.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:15-28

A reading from Colossians.

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: LUKE 10:38-42

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

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

ELW #770

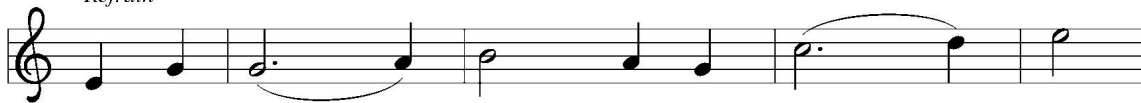


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

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

Go Light Your World

Rice/arr. Mauldin

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW #820



- 1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
- 2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
- 3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Campra

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RE-IMAGINED VBS BEGINS TODAY

Today, from 3pm to 5pm, we will begin the first leg of our *Journey to Bethlehem*. This prophetic journey begins with Isaiah as we Prepare the Way. A sandwich meal will follow. Please join!

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please note: Bible study tomorrow night, Monday, July 21 will begin at 7pm instead of 6:30pm.

GUEST PREACHER NEXT SUNDAY

The Rev. Tenny Shiffley, longtime pastor at Christ Lutheran in Charlotte, will be our preacher & presiding minister next week while Pastor Matt attends the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix.

PASTORAL CARE NEXT WEEK

Please reach out to the church office for any urgent pastoral care needs while Pr. Matt is out of town for the Assembly. We will direct you to an on-call pastor.

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.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

We have a very limited supply of the newly released Lutheran Study Bibles at a cost of \$37.00. If you are interested in purchasing one please contact the church office.

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

Ellen Goodman (*recent fall*)

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 *Presiding Minister*

Catherine Ritch *Director of Music*

Patti Fletcher *Lector*

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

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

The Rowland Family *Livestream Support*

Diane Miller, Sheryll Garfola *Altar Guild*

Jacob Sigler *Teller*

CONTACT US

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ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025

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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