



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 27, 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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.** The Season after Pentecost (the long, green season also commonly known as Ordinary Time) begins following Pentecost Sunday and ends on Christ the King Sunday, 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 Pr. Matt to the Glory of God and in loving memory of his sister whose birthday was July 31st.
  - ❖ **The rose bud** on the stand today is given in honor of Nancy Deal who will celebrate her 90th birthday on July 29.
- 

### 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.
- ❖ 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*.

---

## ✝ GATHERING ✝

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

---

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

Carol Hinson

### 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

*Praise the Lord! O Heavens*

ELW #823



- 1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
- 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom-ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam-ing stars and light.  
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might-y voice o - beyed;  
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro-claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid-ance he has made.  
heav'n and earth, and all cre-a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

## 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.* Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through 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 the pastor.*

### FIRST READING: GENESIS 18:20-32

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

## PSALM 138

*We read Psalm 138 responsively by verse.*

<sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup> **I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength of soul.

<sup>4</sup> **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup> They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> **For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

## SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: LUKE 11:1-13

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

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’<sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.<sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?<sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?<sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

ELW #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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

God of mercy whose care and compassion for us is beyond imagining, Hear us as you heard Abraham and answer our prayers as may be best for us and always to your glory as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower your church that it might be a bold and fearless champion of the dignity of all people. May your Spirit's presence guide our Churchwide Assembly voting members as they discern future leaders for this church. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the eyes and hearts of all in authority. Grant them wisdom and compassion in the exercise of their responsibilities that they might always pursue the path of greatest good Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Allow us to see the good in our neighbors that we might be forceful advocates for human thriving in all the places we call home. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring your healing presence into the lives of all who suffer from any distress. We especially pray for those on our congregation's prayer list and those we now name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hold the dead in your loving care and grant us also to enter into your eternal love on the day of our death. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating and sustaining Lord, you know before we ask the longings of our hearts. Look upon us with compassion and lead us ever deeper into relationship with you so that we might more fully be the people you created us to be. All these we ask in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## 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](http://www.stjohnsconcord.com/give) or by texting “give” to (704) 706-2115.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Majesty*

Hayford

### 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

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

ELW #742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

No Bible Study this week. We will meet on August 4th at 6:30pm in Goins Hall.

### EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

For pastoral care emergencies requiring an on-site visit, please reach out to the church office. Pastor Matt will be available for phone calls (612-704-2828). Please leave a message.

### NEW NURSERY

Beginning August 3rd we will be offering a nursery for our youngest disciples. Temporarily, this will be held in the classroom closest to the office in the educational building. Children may be brought to the room prior to worship starting and picked up there following worship. Please reach out to Patti Fletcher if you would be willing to keep the nursery one Sunday morning.

### LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

The church has ordered copies of the newly released *Lutheran Study Bible*. These hardcover Bibles may be purchased for \$37 in the church office.

### AUGUST NEWSLETTER

The August newsletter will be published on Sunday, August 3rd. If you have an announcement to include in the newsletter, please share it with the church office by July 29th.

---

## PRAYER LIST

---

### ***Immediate Care Concern***

*Ruth Wiertzema (friend of Catherine Ritch)*

*The Men and Women serving this weekend at the Via de Cristo National Gathering in Charlotte.*

### ***Ongoing Care Concern***

Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*recent hospitalization*), Ken Hayes, brother of Jim Hayes, (*surgery*), 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. Tennyson Shifley *Preaching & Presiding*  
Carol Hinson *Substitute Musician*  
Deane Moorehead *Lector*  
Sheryll Garfola, Anne Shuping, Diane Miller *Communion Assistants*  
Phillip Casper, Keith Cook, Jeff Culp, Phil Fisher *Ushers*  
Connor Roland *Livestream Support*  
Diane Miller, Sheryll Garfola *Altar Guild*  
Jacob Sigler *Teller*

---

## CONTACT US

---

### BY PHONE

Melinda Redding, Church Office (704) 436-6081  
Admin Assistant's Mobile (704) 213-0784  
Pastor Matt's Mobile (612) 704-2828

### ONLINE

Office Email [office@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:office@stjohnsconcord.com)  
Pastor Matt's Email [matt@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:matt@stjohnsconcord.com)

### 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.*



Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS016664.  
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.  
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.