



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 28, 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.

SERVICE NOTES

- ❖ A printed cross ✝ is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body. We make the sign of the cross to remember our Baptism and the promise: *"You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."*
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ A nursery is available for your use. Ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is Setting Eight from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.
- ❖ Have questions? Ask the pastor. He is happy to discuss the movements of our worship service and why we do what we do as Lutherans.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

People of St. John's:

This Sunday, through the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, we are reminded of the calling God places in front of us every day. *"And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table..." (vv.20-21)*



So, I believe it is worth asking: Who is at our gate? Who's right in front of us, in need of something that we can help provide?

At the end of the day, when all is said and done, our possessions and wealth don't mean much. But what does mean a lot is how open our eyes are to the people God has "placed at our gate." In this week's lesson, the tragedy of the rich man is not simply his wealth and extravagance, it is his lack of understanding of what's most important, the human need in his midst.

The rich man never saw Lazarus as his neighbor. As God's people, we are called to live with eyes wide open, noticing the hurting, the hungry, and the forgotten. Refreshed and forgiven, claimed and called, may we live each day realizing what's most important.

The Lord be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS TODAY

At 4pm, we will gather at the labyrinth to bless our beloved pets. The Blessing of the Animals takes place at churches across the globe around the Feast Day for St. Francis (Oct 4). Our Blessing of the Animals reminds us that God's love extends to the whole creation.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETS TODAY

The Worship & Music Committee will meet today at 3pm in the meeting room behind the sanctuary.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS TODAY

Pastor Matt is offering a confirmation class for both St. John's and Mt. Olive. The first session is during today's Sunday School hour. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they begin this important faith journey.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We continue exploring *The Church: A Guide to the People of God* by Brad East. Please read to page 100 for our next session.

HERITAGE CENTER COMMUNION SERVICE

Please join us at 10am on Tuesday, September 30 for a short service of Holy Communion at the St. John's Heritage Center.

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK

On Preschool Sunday (celebrated each semester), we welcome the St. John's Preschool teachers, students, and families for a special worship service and blessing. Please join!

FALL CLASSIC RESTAURANT TRIP IS NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, following worship, we will take a field trip to Denton for a fellowship meal at the Classic Restaurant. All are welcome and encouraged to join. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

VIA DE CHRISTO

Fall Via de Cristo weekends are September 25-28, October 2-5 and October 9-12. We have several members serving on teams. Steve Drye and Rathel Goodman on the men's, Vera Drye on the women's and Carol Hinson and Bonnie Shoaf on the mixed. Please keep all participants in your prayers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OCTOBER 12

- Following worship, a Called Congregational Meeting will take place on October 12 to approve a proposal for a digital cemetery plotting tool. All voting members should attend this important meeting.
- We will also welcome Stephanie Burke from the ELCA Foundation for a special all-church Sunday School at 9am. Stephanie Burke will offer information to us regarding legacy giving, estate planning, and more.
- During worship, we will bless the work of our Knotters ministry and send forth quilts to be distributed across the globe. Loose offering today will be designated to be used for shipping costs.

FRANCES GOINS CIRCLE

The Frances Goins Circle will not meet on the first Tuesday of October. We will travel to Southern Supreme on October 31st meeting at the church at 9 am. - Sheryll Garfola

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Runyan

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

ELW #835



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

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

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the

2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, 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 the pastor.

FIRST READING: AMOS 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from Amos.

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM 146

- ¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶ **who made heaven and earth,**

the sea, and all that is in them;
 who keeps faith forever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
 who gives food to the hungry.
 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,
 your God, O Zion, for all generations.
 Praise the LORD! Praise the Lord.

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

A reading from 1st Timothy.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW #729



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

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

Praise, Praise the Lord

Althouse

OFFERING SONG

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

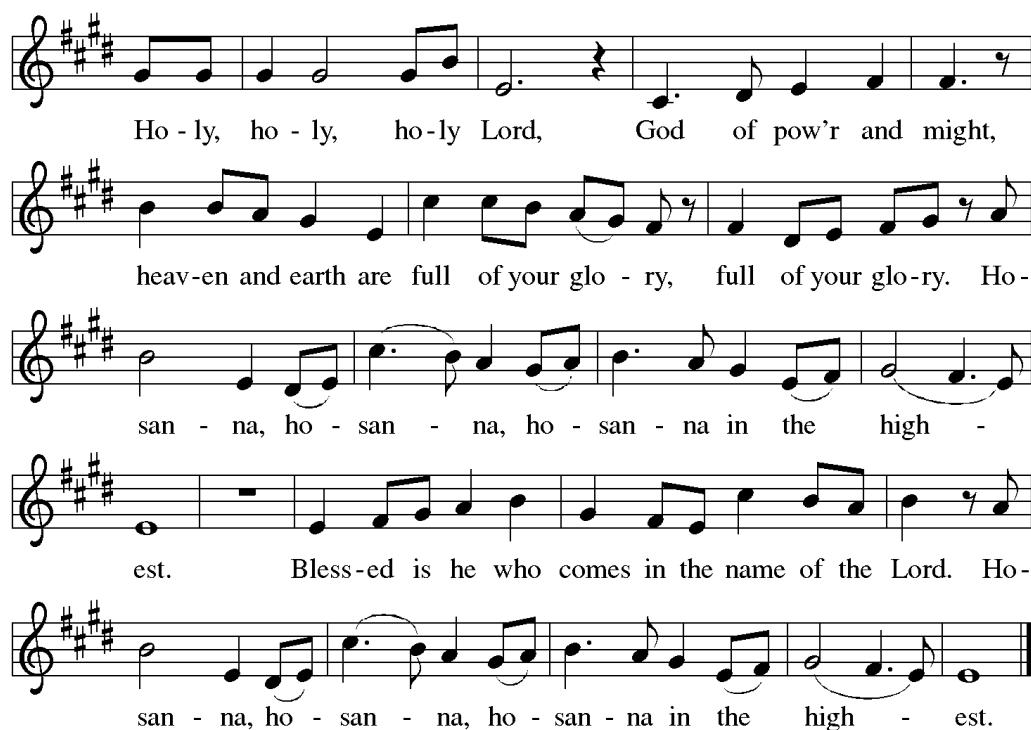
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

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

Great is the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ *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.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this 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

When the Poor Ones

ELW #725



1 Cuan-do_el po - bre na - da tie - ne y_aún re - par - te,
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv - ing;
2 When com - pas - sion gives the suf - f'ring con - so - la - tion;
3 When our spir - its, like a chal - ice, brim with glad - ness;
4 When the good - ness poured from heav - en fills our dwell - ings;



cuan - do al - guien pa - sa sed y_a - gua nos da,
when the thirst - y pass the cup, wa - ter to share;
when ex - spect - ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
when our voic - es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when the na - tions work to change war in - to peace;



cuan-do_el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce:
when the wound - ed of - fer oth - ers strength and heal - ing;
when we choose love, not the ha - tred all a - round us:
when our long - ings, free from en - vy, seek the hum - ble:
when the strang - er is ac - cept - ed as our neigh - bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way;



va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

How Excellent Is Thy Loving Kindness

Noyes/Stillman

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

Gloria Casper (*Recovery from surgery*), Susan Hayes (*Recovery from surgery*)

Ongoing Care Concern

Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*),
Roger Shoaf (*Health condition*), Stan Parnell (*Health condition*), Al Sundling (*Health condition*), Lucy Thomas
(*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 (*Mt. Pleasant House*),
Kay Walker (*Brookdale Concord*)

Homebound

Pat Blackwelder, Nancy Deal, Judy Fisher, Elaine Petrea

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	<i>Presiding Minister</i>
Catherine Ritch	<i>Organist</i>
Patti Fletcher	<i>Lector</i>
David Johnson, Jim Thinnes, Bonita Rowland	<i>Communion Assistants</i>
John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters	<i>Ushers</i>
Rowland Family	<i>Livestream Support</i>
Janet & Jimmy Lentz	<i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Etta & Bonita Rowland	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Larry Allman	<i>Teller</i>

CONTACT US

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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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