



Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 19, 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.

*Altar flowers are given today by Bob and Anne Shuping to the glory of God
and in honor of Yury Shuping on his 19th birthday on October 23rd.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME PASTOR TENNY!

Welcome back, Pastor Tennyson Shifley, who is leading worship this week as our church group continues its Greece trip in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. *Please remember:* if you have a pastoral care emergency this week, contact the church office. We have local clergy on-call.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Celebrate the magic of Christmas on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00–7:00 pm with a craft market, entertainment, food trucks, and tours of the heritage museum at the St. John's Christmas Market Celebration! Come enjoy the season or sell your handcrafted items!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat will be held here at St. John's on Sunday, October 26th from 4 – 5:30 pm. If you are interested in displaying your trunk, please contact Susan Hayes.

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATE CHANGE

The confirmation class originally scheduled for October 26th has been moved to November 2nd from 8:45am to 9:45am.

BACK TO THE BASICS: TEN WEEKS WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

October is the tenth month of the year, and we will begin ten weeks exploring all Ten Commandments. In 1529, Martin Luther published the *Small Catechism* so households could explain to their children in simple terms the basics of the faith: The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Sacraments, and simple prayers for daily living. If you don't have a copy of the *Catechism*, we will begin distributing the pocket editions in the church Narthex over the next few weeks. To support this effort, consider a gift to the Christian Education fund. Additionally, the *Small Catechism* is found in the back of the ELW (red hymnal) and can be downloaded, in app form, for free:

<https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org/>

Today's Focus: The Third Commandment

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God's word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear and learn it.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Beck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

The Third Commandment teaches us that we are to remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

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

We confess that we have neglected your Word.

We have despised preaching through our boredom or indifference.

We have not gladly heard and learned it.

We have filled our days with noise and distraction rather than resting in your promises.

In Christ, the Word made flesh, God speaks a word of forgiveness to you today. All your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are freed to keep God's Word holy and to rejoice in its promises. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW #676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y•a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

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



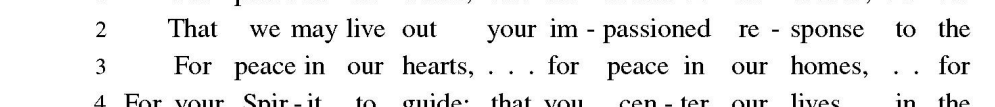
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



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



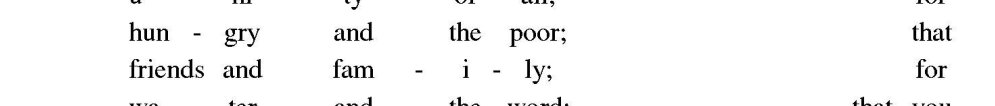
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the



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



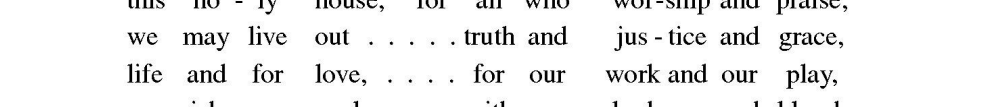
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for



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



u-ni-ty of all; for



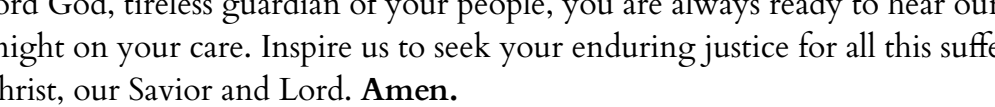
hun-gry and the poor; that



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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, 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: GENESIS 32:22-31

A reading from Genesis.

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

PSALM 121

We read Psalm 121 responsively

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

A reading from 2nd Timothy.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 18:1-8

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

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Tenny Shifley

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW #588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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

Psalm 121

Sorensen

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

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 God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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

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

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW #501



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Fugue in F Major

Bach

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

The Family of Carl Bost (*Bereavement*), Anne Moose (*Recovery from surgery*), Bob Blackwelder (*Recovery from surgery*), Catherine Carriker (*Recovery from fall*)

Ongoing Care Concern

Pat Blackwelder (*Home*), Nancy Deal (*Home*), Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*Home*), Susan Hayes (*Recovery from surgery*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*), Roger Shoaf (*Health condition*), Stan Parnell (*Health condition*), Al Sundling (*Health condition*), Lucy Thomas (*Health condition*), Elaine Petrea (*Home*), 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*)

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Tennyson Shifley	<i>Presiding Minister</i>
Catherine Ritch	<i>Organist</i>
Deane Moorehead	<i>Lector</i>
Kate Ritchie, Brenda Miller, Jill Love	<i>Communion Assistants</i>
John DeVitto, Charles Eudy, Kevin Edwards	<i>Ushers</i>
Rowland Family	<i>Livestream Support</i>
St. John's Preschool Staff	<i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Anne Shuping & Sheryll Garfola	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Connor Rowland	<i>Teller Lead</i>

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
Pastor Matt's Email	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, <i>by appointment</i>.
↪ 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.