



***And the Lord said,
“Is it right for you to be angry?”***

Jonah 4:4

August 20, 2017

8:30 am

St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, North Carolina



Welcome to St. John's!

Please note that today's service is printed entirely in this worship booklet.

*Occasionally you will be invited to turn to a hymn
in the red book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

*The congregation's responses are in **bold**.*

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! We hope that you will feel a warm sense of welcome today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. Please complete the Friendship Pad found on the pew so that we might get to know one another better. For more information, visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org.

HOLY COMMUNION is offered on the first and third Sundays at the 11 am service, on the second and fourth Sundays at the 8:30 am service, and on the first Sundays at the 9:27 am service. All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to the Table to receive God's gift of grace through his body and blood. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing. Following the ushers' instructions, proceed down the aisle to the front of the church.

Grape juice and non-gluten wafers are available. Please indicate your preference to the pastor. Persons with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew. Welcome to the Lord's Table!

SMALL CHILDREN are always welcome at worship, although a nursery for infants through age 5 is provided in the lower level of Peeler Hall for your convenience. Please ask an usher to direct you to the nursery.

ST JOHN'S IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE to those with physical restrictions. An elevator to the sanctuary is located along the side entrance of the church. Hearing aids and audio loops are available at the 11 am service. Large print bulletins are available at the 11 am service. Our ushers will be glad to assist you.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Meditation based on a Traditional English Melody arr. Robert J. Powell
Elaine Holden, flute; Michelle Trivette, saxophone;
Kevin Agner, cello; Aleksandr Witt, trombone

Welcome *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

Please stand, turning towards the cross of Christ.

Call to Worship and Prayers of Confession

As we gather for worship, you are invited to make the sign of the cross as a sign of your baptism.

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God's Promise of Forgiveness

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ *The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*

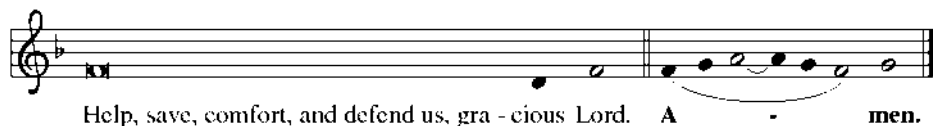
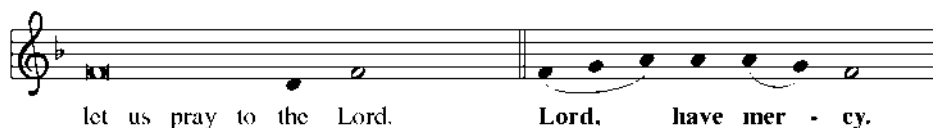
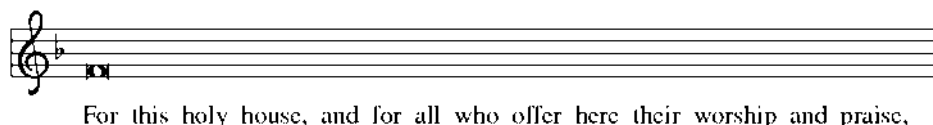
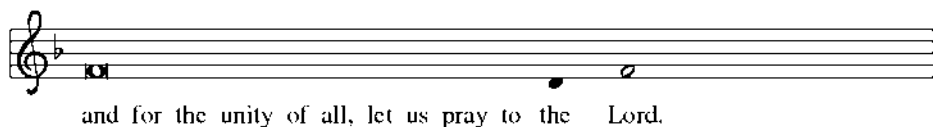
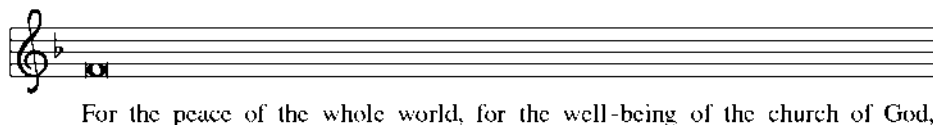
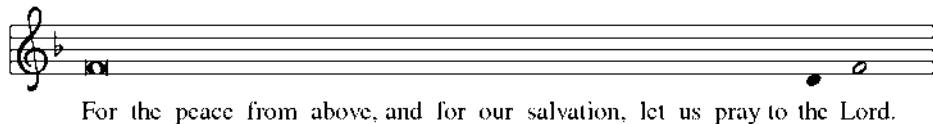
Entrance Hymn 886

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

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. *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Faith Life Moment

Lauren Stephenson, Women's Ministry

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

Preaching Text:

Jonah 3-4

Jonah is reproved

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

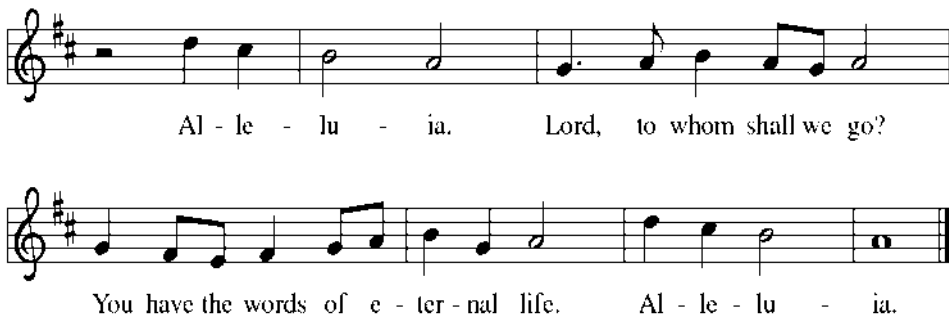
^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:38-41

The sign of Jonah

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Please stand

Hymn 588

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

BEACH SPRING

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
 there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
 There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is no place where earth's failing have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
 there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
 There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
 there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:
 greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.
 Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
 and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, Music: North American, 19th Cent.: License #8006631501

Apostles' Creed. *The three paragraphs of the Creed express our belief in the three-fold nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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.**

Please be seated

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
 Instrumental Ensemble

arr. Robert J. Powell

As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession *Each petition ends: "Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**"*

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing and Prayer

Sending

God blesses us and invites us to help advance his kingdom

Benediction

Sending Hymn 836

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Epilogue

Francois Couperin

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