

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 26, 2023 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC



During the season of Lent, our altar cross is replaced by a cross that reflects the somber and reflective themes of the season. This black cross with gold vines crossing through it was commissioned by the Heilig family and used as the St. John's altar cross for over 50 years. During the remainder of the year, it sits in the chapel narthex. Our regular cross, made of bright gold and commissioned by the late Paul and Lois Carter in 2011, will return on Easter Sunday.



# Welcome to St. John's

*We're so glad God has brought you here!*

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. As we begin this new week together, we'd like to bring a few announcements to your attention:

**Wednesday Night Meals**—Wednesday night meals conclude in Ritchie Hall at 5:30 pm this coming Wednesday, March 29, and will resume again in the fall.

**Sundays of Lent** — 9:27 (Faith Center) and 11:00 am (Sanctuary and Online). This year's daily devotional guide, "*Water and Spirit*", is available in our literature racks and at the Church Office.

**Midweek Lenten Worship**—Holden Evening Prayer—Wed., March 29, 6:30 pm will be the last night of our Wednesdays in Lent services. It will be held in the Sanctuary and online. The Holden Evening Prayer booklets will be distributed and collected before and after each week's service. The 30-minute services will be rooted in the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer, accompanied by visual reflections and questions for contemplation from *Sanctified Art*.

**Lenoir Rhyne University Concert**—A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble—2023 Spring Tour, tonight, March 26, at 7pm. Performance is free and open to the public.

**Offering Envelope Boxes**—Today is the last Sunday to pick up your assigned box from the narthex. Any remaining boxes will be moved to the church office.

**Easter Lilies and Palms** — Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. John's, as we decorate our worship spaces for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Give thanks for the blessings in your life or remember and honor loved ones with the purchase of a palm or lily. Lilies may be purchased for \$15 and Palms may be purchased for \$25. We will also be collecting donations to go towards the Easter Cross and altar flowers in memory or honor of loved ones. Money for lilies, palms and flowers may be mailed to or taken to the church office. You may also place money, in a marked envelope in the offering boxes. Deadline for ordering is March 29.

## Worship Navigation

The Congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.

\* = **Please stand as you are able**

+ = **Face the Cross**

✝ = You are invited to make the sign of the Cross.

**Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.**



# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus/Lead Me to Calvary*  
Janie Rollins, Piano

arr. Don Wyrzten

## **Confession and Forgiveness \*+**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✚ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

**Entrance Hymn 848 \***

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

DUKE STREET

## The Apostolic 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.** \* *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*

Robert J. Durocher, Jr.

Gently ♩ = 78

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste e -

6  
le - i - son. Christ have mer - cy.

©2019 D-Clef Music

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

## Prayer of the Day \*

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

The Kingdom Kids Choir

*It's a Matter of the Heart*  
Kimberly Lentz, Director

by Lynn Shaw Bailey

It's a matter of the heart.

Choosing to do what is right in God's sight, it's a matter of the heart.

Don't put horse behind the cart. Follow God with all your heart.

Choose to chart the smart and humble way.

For if you choose Him from the start, all His blessings He'll impart.

It's a matter of the heart.  
So it's really up to you. You can choose the thing to do.  
But a gentle word of wisdom I'll impart:  
Love the Lord with all your might. He will help you do what's right.  
It's a matter of the heart.

## Welcome and Announcements

## Mission Moment



# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

<sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

### Choral Response

*Go Not Far from Me, O God*

Niccolò Zingarelli

Go not far from me, O God; Cast me not away in the time of age,  
Forsake me not when my strength faileth me.  
O let my mouth be filled with thy praise,  
That I may sing of Thy glory and honor all the day long.

### The Holy Gospel \*

John 11:1-45



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble,

because the light is not in them.”<sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”<sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

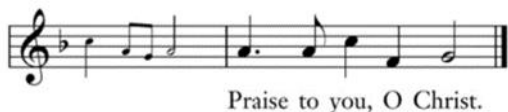
<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth,



and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

Pastor Lori Carter

**Hymn 758 \***

*You Are the Way*

DUNDEE

**Apostles' Creed.** Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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 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.**




# Sending

*Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.*

## Prayer and Benediction \*

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 Hymn 534 \*+**

*Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*

ELLERS

## Dismissal \*

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

## Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license # 26999.

# Holy<sup>+</sup>Week **SCHEDULE**

April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 7 (Good Friday)	12:15 CHAPEL 7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 9 (Easter Sunday)	6:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE BTG 9:27AM FAITH CENTER 11AM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE

STJOHNS-SALISBURY.ORG

# Easter Breakfast

APRIL 9  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
RITCHIE HALL  
(LOVE OFFERING ACCEPTED)

# St. John's Lutheran Church

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 | 704.636.3431  
stjohns-salisbury.org | To contact a staff member: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org

## Pastoral Ministry

Interim Senior Pastor.....Greg Williams  
Pastor for Congregational Care .....Lori Carter  
Pastor for Youth and Outreach .....James Demmel

## Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon  
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Ricky Howsare  
Accompanist.....Janie Rollins  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins  
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard Jr., deacon

## Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer  
Senior Adults .....Diane Poole  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), Director .....Teresa Stoner  
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas

## Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross  
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor  
Accounting.....Mark Bias  
Communications Specialist.....Jodorrian Taylor  
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg  
Custodian.....William Fisher  
Custodian.....Wendy Hammonds-Charles



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*