



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday

April 28, 2024 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



Welcome to St. John's

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Welcome to worship on this Youth Sunday! Youth ministry at St. John's strives to help our young people grow in their faith. We gather weekly for lessons and fellowship on Sunday evening and attend retreats and trips throughout the year that help our youth have experiences that will form the foundation of their faith journeys. Youth Sunday is an opportunity for our youth to give back to St. John's through their worship leadership and reflect upon the year they have had together. Our theme this year is "Present." Our graduating seniors hope to reflect on how God is present in their lives and on how we can better be present before God and one another. Youth have helped prepare and lead nearly every aspect of the service. Our preachers this year are graduating seniors Drew Bitzer (Gray Stone Day, preaching at 927) and Millie Wymbs (Salisbury High School, preaching at 11 am).

St. John's Men's Chorus Spring Concert—30th Anniversary!—Join us this afternoon at 4 pm in the Sanctuary for *Singers Arise!* presented by St. John's Men's Chorus. A free will offering will be taken. Reception following in Ritchie Hall.

Ministry Celebration—Sat. May 4—10 am—2 pm. Come see, celebrate and learn more about the ministries of St. John's and how you can become involved. There will also be food trucks on Jackson Street, hourly raffles, and hands-on experiences! It's going to be great fun!

Graduation Book Signing—beginning today through May 12 —Everyone is invited to participate in the tradition of signing books for our Senior Graduates! Copies of *"Oh, The Places You Will Go"* are located in Peeler Hall. Words of wisdom and encouragement are welcomed as our graduates embark on this next chapter in their lives!

VBS—Registration is now open (3 year olds to current 5th graders). **Jun. 10-14, 9 am—12:15 pm.** Join us as we dive into friendship with God during our "SCUBA"-themed VBS! Use the QR code to sign up. Contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org with any questions.



VBS Registration



VBS Wishlist

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

Here I Am, Lord

arr. by R. B. Farley

Thanksgiving for Baptism *+

Kaitlyn Losh, Ella Wilson, Aiden Moss

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,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Apostolic Greeting*

Finnegan Avery

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.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



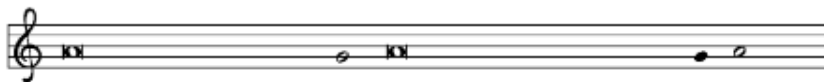
Lord, have mer - cy.



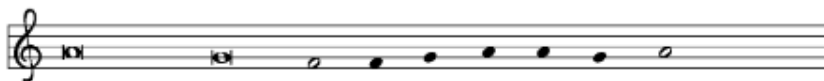
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise*

This is the Feast

from Revelation 5

Refrain
 All

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All

 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day*

Meredith Williams

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

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor James Demmel, Lilly Dangerfield, Ella Wilson, Drew Rabon



Word

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

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Children’s Sermon

Lilly Dangerfield, Kaitlyn Losh, Sam Goodman, Meredith Williams

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.

The Holy Gospel:* Matthew 6:25-34

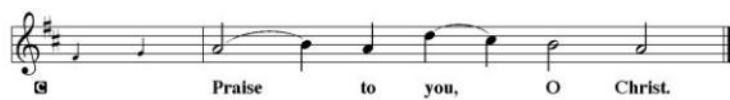
Ashley Yang

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Millie Wymbys

Hymn 596*

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

THE SOLID ROCK

Nicene Creed

Connor Towns

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession * *Each petition ends: "God of grace, **hear our prayer.**"*

Lilly Dangerfield, Aiden Moss, Ella Williams, Cora Wymbes, Meredith Williams

Sharing the Peace of Christ: *We make peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ, sharing the words "Peace be with you."*

Ashton Williams

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

Way Maker

by Osinachi Okoro

Sung by our middle and high school youth

You are here moving in our midst. I worship you, I worship you.
You are here working in this place. I worship you, I worship you.

*(Refrain) Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, Light in the darkness,
My God, that is who you are!*

You are here touching every heart. I worship you, I worship you.
You are here healing every heart. I worship you, I worship you.
You are here turning lives around. I worship you, I worship you.
You are here mending every heart. I worship you, I worship you. *(Refrain)*

Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working

Way Maker by Osinachi, Okoro, Capitol CMG/Integrity, Copyright 2016 CCLI #942521



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Preparation of the Lord's Table. *After the table is prepared, the Congregation stands and sings: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful".*

The Offertory Hymn 184*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

HILLERT

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer*

Hope Thomas

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer with Words of Institution*

The Lord's Prayer*

Anna Kate Goodman

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*

Mary Masters Goodman

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will commune by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine). All stations will be on the nave level. Please follow the directions of the ushers. For those with special needs, please note that grape juice as well as non-gluten wafers are available. Those with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew or by notifying an usher. A pastor will then bring you communion during distribution.

Communion Hymn

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn 481

Come to the Table

Hymn 472

Eat This Bread

Hymn 471

Let Us Break Bread Together

Post Communion Blessing*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion*

Landen Ryerson

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**



Sending

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

Benediction*

Mallory Rhyne

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 543*+

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

Dismissal*

Cora Wymbs

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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Support Participants

927 ACOLYTE: Benny Rathbun

927 GREETERS:

Lower Doors—Drew Rabon, Aiden Moss, Gabriel Shafer, William Charest
Upper Doors—Lilly Dangerfield, Ella Wilson, Clara Misner, Katie Ann Dangerfield
Faith Center Doors—Landen Ryerson, Graham Wilson,
Jeffrey Stephenson, Kaitlyn Losh, Bella German, Bell Brady, Anelise Roy

927 USHERS:

Connor Towns, Finnegan Avery, Drew Rabon

927 COMMUNION SERVERS:

Lilly Dangerfield, Ella Wilson, Aiden Moss, Landen Ryerson, Cora Wymbs, Millie Wymbs

11 am GREETERS:

Cora Wymbs, Meredith Williams, Ashley Yang, Sam Goodman, Aiden Moss,
Connor Towns, Anelise Roy, Clara Misner, Katie Ann Dangerfield

11 am USHERS:

Connor Towns, Aiden Moss, Finnegan Avery, Lilly Dangerfield, Cora Wymbs,
Hope Thomas, Gabriel Shafer, William Charest, Bell Brady

11 am COMMUNION SERVERS:

Cora Wymbs, Meredith Williams, Hope Thomas, Mallory Rhyne, Drew Rabon,
Aiden Moss

CRUCIFER—Connor Towns

BANNER BEARER—Aiden Moss

ACOLYTES—Ben Yost and Clara Misner

CANTOR—Eileen Fain

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Dan Joyner Miller....ext. 2060
Pastor for Congregational CareLori Carter....ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames Demmel....ext. 2040

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon....ext. 2080
Interim Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Assistant Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins....ext. 2190
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard Jr., deacon

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer....ext. 2020
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), DirectorGina Phifer....ext. 2120
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas....ext. 3212

Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross....ext. 2030
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor....ext. 2000
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias....ext. 2170
Communications Specialist.....Jodorrian Taylor....ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



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