



Generosity Painting by Mugur Kreiss
Romania

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC
stjohns-salisbury.org | 704.636.3431



Welcome to St. John's

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Buck-A-Meal—On the first Sunday of the month, every one dollar bill placed in the offering boxes goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Endowment Grant Applications—The Endowment Grant window is now open. **Please submit all applications by September 1, 2024 by 5 pm.** Please visit our website to apply.

Pictorial Directory—Photography Sessions start tomorrow, Sept. 2 (Labor Day) at our former Seasons Gift Shop. Various dates to choose from. For important details and to sign up for your slot, visit our website or scan the QR Code here. If you need assistance, please call our office. You must select a date.



Women's Ministry Event—Sept. 5 at 6:15 pm—in Ritchie Hall. Pastor Kendra Joyner Miller will introduce you to Cole Arthur Riley's work as creator of Black Liturgies in partnership with Catawba College's Clergy Network program. You will be invited to participate in a time of reflection and writing of liturgies for your own life. Contact lori@stjohns-salisbury.org with questions.

Wednesday Night Meals—Begin on Sept. 11 at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Make plans to join in fellowship around the table, connecting with old friends and meeting new ones. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm and our upcoming menus are tried and true favorites. Takeouts are sometimes available at 6 pm once those in attendance have been served. Reservations are not needed. Visit our website for more details.

Altar Flowers— Given to the glory of God and in memory of Elmer and Mildred Moxley on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and David Moxley's birthday, by Melody Moxley.

Worship Participants

Order of St John's:

Acolytes—Caleb Rathbun and Benny Rathbun

Reader: David Hord

Crucifer—Bella German

Banner Bearer—Kaitlyn Losh

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

Impromptu in G Flat Major
Mark Tysinger, Piano

By Franz Schubert

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 forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

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.*

(Cantor) Congregation (Cantor)

Voice

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Lord have mer - cy. Chr - i - ste e -

6 Congregation 2nd time

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

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*

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

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Welcome and Announcements



Word

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

Reading: James 1:17-27

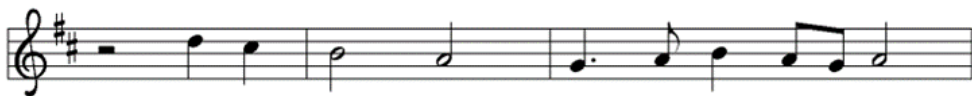
The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God. Word of Life. **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.

The Holy Gospel*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.

²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Lori Carter

Hymn 733*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

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: "Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"*

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

Adagio in c# minor
Mark Tysinger, Piano

by W.A. Mozart



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, Lord".*



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*

Blessed are you, O God,
 source of every gift of your creation.
 By these gifts and with our lives,
 help us to serve one another and all in need,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

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*

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*

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion. *All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion at the altar. Follow the usher's instructions. Wine is served in individual cups. Grape juice and non-gluten wafers are available upon request. Please indicate your preference to the pastor. Those not receiving the sacrament, are invited forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor. **If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.***

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 466

In the Singing

Hymn 482

I Come with Joy

Post Communion Blessing*

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

Prayer after Communion*

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sending

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

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 545*+

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

Dismissal*

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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