

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Office Closed—The Church Office remains closed for the Christmas Break and will re-open on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Offering Envelopes—Please pick up your labeled box of offering envelopes in the Sanctuary narthex (11 am folks) and Peeler Hall (927 folks). Beginning in January, you may pick them up at the Church Office.

Wednesday Night Meals—We will be starting back up on **Jan. 15 at 5:30 pm**. Look for our upcoming announcement with the opportunity to purchase a Season Pass.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in honor of our faithful St. John's Support Staff: Mark Bias, Vivian Connor, Deborah Cross, Brandt Cozad, David Ellenburg and Mary Wymbs, by Mark and Corinne Mauldin.

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Rosemary Kinard, Flute; Janie Rollins, Piano

setting by Ed Hogan

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,
whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God with us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
✚ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

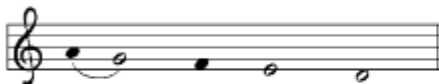
APOSTOLIC GREETING*

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.**

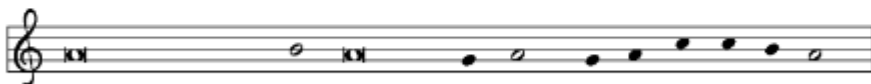
KYRIE* *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



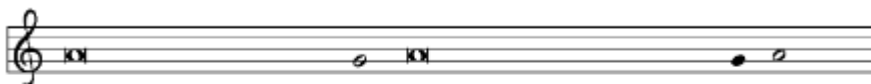
Lord, have mer - cy.



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*

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

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

Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



WORD

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

READING:

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

Alleluia



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 ACCORDING TO LUKE*

Luke 2:41-52



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

SERMON HYMN 288*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

NICENE CREED*

The creed links us to one another and to history. In reciting it, we join ourselves to believers in the past, some of whom professed these words at great risk to their lives. Together, we profess what we hold in common — our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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, receive our prayer."*

PEACE*

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

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Some Children See Him by W. Hutson and A. Burt
Rosemary C. Kinard, Soloist, Janie Rollins, Piano

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heav'n to earth come down.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.
some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face
like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,
come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN*

Love Has Come

UN FLAMBEAU

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love Shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother,
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers,
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

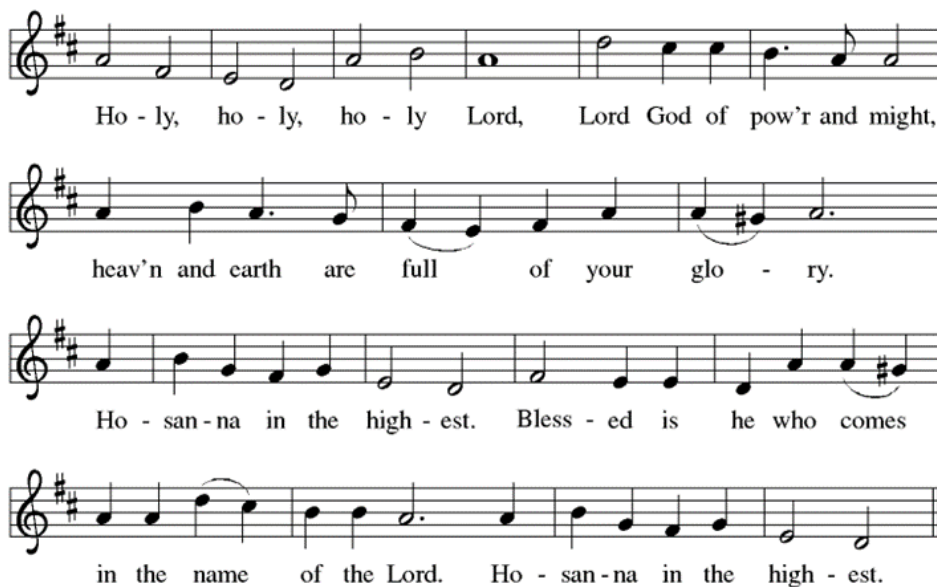
OFFERTORY PRAYER*

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
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*

Holy One, the beginning and the end...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for His coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...All praise and glory are yours, Holy one of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

Amen

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*

A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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 277

Piano Meditations

Away in a Manger

The First Noel

Lea Anne Thomas

O, Little Town of Bethlehem

Noah Trick, Piano

arr. by Nancy M. Raabe

arr. by Dan Coates

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy. **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 290*+

Go Tell It On The Mountain

GO TELL IT

DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

Order of St John's:

Acolytes—Ben Yost and Emily Rhyne

Crucifer—Mallory Rhyne

Banner Bearer—Aiden Moss

Reader: Corinne Mauldin



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
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Assistant Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
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
Ministry Program Coordinator.....Mary Wymbms...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



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