



The Descent of the Holy Spirit, from a benedictional made in Regensburg, Germany, ca. 1030–40. Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025 | 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!

Installation of Rev. Stacey Brady—Today at 2 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. St. John's member and newly called pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rev. Stacey Brady will be installed at a special service. Pr. Dan Joyner Miller will preach and Deacon Rob Durocher will accompany the service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 913 US-601, Mocksville, NC 27028. All are invited to attend as we support Stacey in her new ministry.

Bibles and Brews 2025—Men's Ministry—Join us on Tues., Feb. 25 at 6 pm at the Grove Cartel Contact Eric Brady at ericbrady@roadrunner.com with any questions.

LSC New Americans Program—Join us on Feb. 27 at 6 pm in the Goodman Dining Room as we explore ways where individuals at St. John's and ministry groups can continue to support this agency.

Godspeed Reception—Mar. 2, Immediately following the Unity Service at 10 am, please join us in Ritchie Hall as we express our love and appreciation to Rob Durocher, his wife, Leslie, and Janie Rollins for their many years of ministry here at St. John's. There will be a basket to receive cards or other expressions of gratitude from members.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner—Mar. 4 at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Join us for our annual Pancake Dinner in support of St. John's Children's Ministry. Donations accepted. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Men's Breakfast—Mar. 8, 8-10 am in Ritchie Hall. We would love to have you join us.

Called Meeting—Mar. 9, in the Faith Center—Approval is needed for the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Wednesdays of Lent—6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and online **begins Mar. 12.** The 30-minute service will be rooted in the beautiful music of **Holden Evening Prayer.** Booklets will be distributed and collected before and after each week's service.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in memory of my mother's birthday, Frances Krider, by Mimi and Tom Carlton.

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

Festival Allemande

by Anthony Holborne

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,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

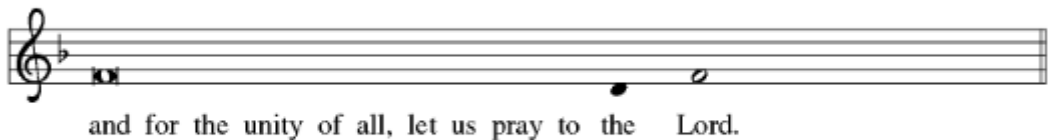
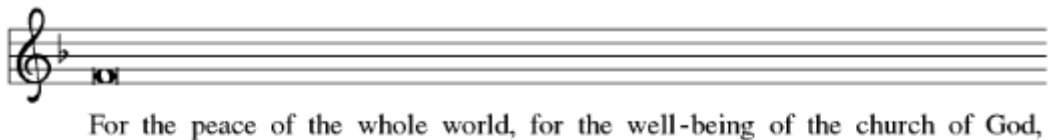
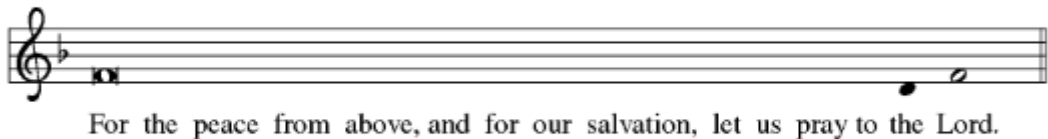
Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **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.*



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

HYMN OF PRAISE*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
 All
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

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

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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:

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

INVITATION TO CHILDREN’S WORSHIP—All elementary-aged children are invited to Children’s Worship. Please gather at the Baptismal Font.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

SERMON HYMN 389*

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
(Stanzas 1-3 & 5)

TRURO

APOSTLE'S 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.**

PEACE*

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

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jubilate Deo
(Psalm 100)

by Dale Wood

O sing to the Lord with a jubilant voice! Glory to God in the highest!
O serve him with gladness, before him rejoice. Praise to the Lord in the highest!
The Lord is our God, our creator, not we. Glory to God in the highest!
The sheep of his pasture we ever shall be. Praise to the Lord in the highest!

O enter his gates with thanksgiving and praise. Glory to God in the highest!
To honor his Name thankful voices we raise. Praise to the Lord in the highest!
For good is the Lord, and his mercy is sure. Glory to God in the highest!
To all generations his truth shall endure. Glory to God!
Glory to God! Praise to the Lord in the highest!

OFFERTORY HYMN* *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: "God of grace, **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.

BENEDICTION*

The Spirit of the triune God
✝ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 815*+ *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Order of St. John's:

Acolytes—Hannah Jean Roy and Anelise Roy

Reader—Wayne Nelson

Crucifer—Kaitlyn Losh

Banner Bearer—Drew Rabon

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 Wymbys...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



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