



Third Sunday In Lent

March 23, 2025 | 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.

Wednesdays of Lent—6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and online. 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.

Palms and Easter Lilies — Be part of the beautiful tradition at St. John's as we decorate our worship spaces for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Palms or lilies given in honor or memory of your loved ones may be purchased. **Deadline for ordering is April 9.**

- * Lilies— \$15 each; Palms—\$30 each
- * You may also make a donation for Easter Flowers for the altar and Easter Cross.

Forms are available at both services, in our literature racks throughout our campus, and online via our website. Payment can be made online, by mail, in-person, or placed in one of the offering boxes.



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Welcome today's Guest Speaker— Emily Harkins was ordained as a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in May of 2020 and serves as the Lead Pastor and Founding Developer of *The Dwelling*, a ministry for Winston-Salem's unhoused.

Bibles and Brews—Men's Ministry—**Mar. 25 at 6 pm** at the Salty Caper, 115 Lee St., Salisbury. We look forward to seeing you there!

Women's Ministry—Packing Party, Mar. 27, 6-7 pm. Join us for a great time of fellowship and service as we pack food bags at Rowan Helping Ministries.

NC Synod of the ELCA, Bishop Tim Smith Retirement Celebration—Mar. 29 at 2 pm. Join us in the Sanctuary for a Worship Celebration with a brief reception following.

Unplugged—Chapel Worship, Apr. 4 at 6:30 pm—Come and experience God's presence as we join our hearts and voices as one. Songs will be led by our Contemporary Worship Leaders, Michael Board and Ondria Witt and the 9:27 Praise Team, accompanied by Jennifer Board.

St. John's Youth Auction "Guatemalan Fiesta"—Sun., Apr. 6 at 3:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$5 Kids (under 10) and include dinner and entertainment. Silent Auction begins at 3:30 pm. If you have an item, experience or service, please email nancyruffshirley@gmail.com and loriyang@carolina.rr.com. RSVP by QR code here or on our website.



VBS—ages 3 through CURRENT 5th grade—Join us on **Jun. 9-13 from 9 am—12:15 pm** for a "*True North*" adventure! Register and view wish list by scanning QR codes below. Contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org with any questions or to volunteer.



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

Sinfonia and Chorale from Cantata no. 4

J.S. Bach

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

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 above, and for our salvation, 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 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*

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Setting by Rob Durocher

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman



O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast; in -
Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days, that
spire re - pen - tence for our sin. and free us from our past.
when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

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

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

Luther Ringers

I've Got Peace Like a River
Kimberly Lentz, Director

arr. Sandra Eithun



WORD

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

READING:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

Psalm 63: 1-8

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter.

Tone 9



¹ O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where
there | is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

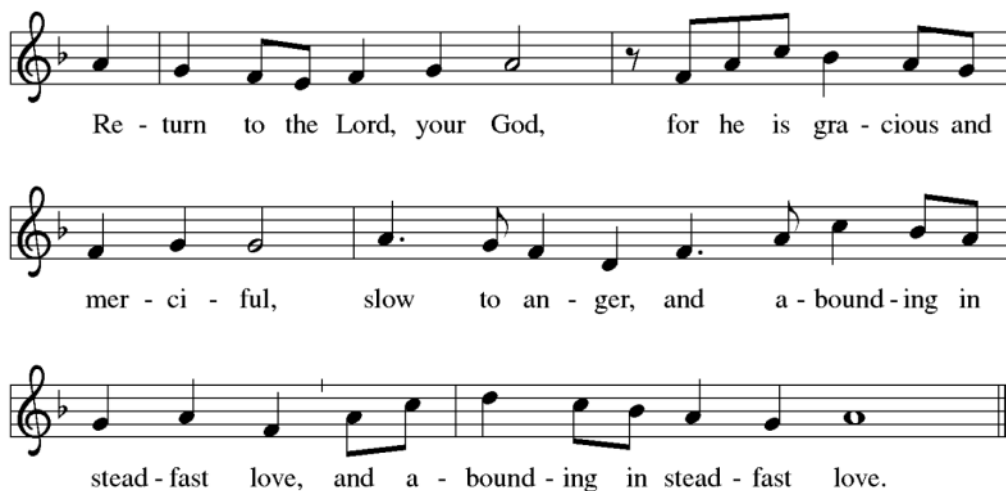
⁷ For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast.**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

Return to the Lord



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE*

Luke 13:1-9



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it

be wasting the soil?’⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Emily Harkins

SERMON HYMN 658*

Oh, Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

WALTON

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

Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.

Jay Althouse

Lord, I stretch my hands to you
No other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone,
Where, then, shall I go?

Oh, Lord, I give my soul to you;
I seek your care and love.
No other blessings do I need
But those from you above.

Lord, I ask you: give me faith,
And help me understand.
And, Lord, when I this life shall leave,
Just hold me in your hand.

Lord, I stretch my hands to you,
No other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone,
Where, then, shall I go?

Oh, Lord, I stretch my hands to you.
Amen.

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*

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION * *Each petition ends: "God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER* *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us sing the prayer that Jesus taught us.*

The assembly sings:



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men



SENDING

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

BENEDICTION*

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 618*+

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

CWM RHONDDA

DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
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—Anson Ward and Mary Masters Goodman

Crucifer—Bella German

Banner Bearer—Finn Avery

Reader—Phil Rollins

Cantor—Randy Overcash

Easter Palms, Lilies and Flowers

Lilies - \$15

Palms - \$30



Order Online

Deadline - April 9

Holy[†]*Week* **SCHEDULE**

April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 18 (Good Friday)	12:15PM CHAPEL 7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 20 (Easter Sunday)	9:27AM FAITH CENTER 11AM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE

STJOHNS-SALISBURY.ORG

St. John's Lutheran Church

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stjohns-salisbury.org | To contact a staff member: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org

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

Interim Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs Director.....Kimberly Lentz.....ext. 2080
Interim Organist.....Connie Burleson.....ext. 2080
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
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 Wymbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliot



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