



Fifth Sunday In Easter

Graduation Sunday

May 18, 2025 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



2025 Scholarship Recipients

This year the scholarship committee awarded total funds of \$41,383 to 24 well-deserving applicants! You can find a list of our scholarships and their criteria on the St. John's website.

Kevin Agner
Mitchell Allen
Ryan Brady
Lilly Dangerfield
James Demmel
Morgan Jeter
Mary Kaufmann
Dylan Kluttz
Kendall Mason
Kirstyn Mason
Connor McCormick
Andrew Mead
Harrison Parrott
Andrew Rabon
Lilly Todd
Makara Trick
Audrey Ward
Ella Wilson
Molly Wilson
Callie Wisecarver
Alex Yang
Ashley Yang
Ellen Yang
John Yang





WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Today is Graduation Sunday where we will celebrate our Class of 2025 graduates and acknowledge our 2025 St. John's Scholarship Recipients. Our graduating Seniors are *Emma Clifton, Lily Dangerfield, Eden Linski, Charlotte Marcum, Kaydence McDaniel, Luke Mesimer, Drew Rabon, Makara Trick, Ella Wilson, Callie Wisecarver and Ashley Yang.*

St. John's Men's Chorus Spring Concert—Today at **4 pm** in the Sanctuary the St. John's Men's Chorus presents, *"Sacred Harp, Sacred Song: Celebrating the Rich Tradition of American Folk Hymns"*. A free will offering will be taken and will benefit the NC Synod Disaster Fund for Hurricane Helene Relief and will be matched up to \$5,000 by a generous donor.

Senior Seasons Academy will wrap up the lecture series on the book of Revelation in Goodman Dining Room on **Tuesday**, May 20.

St. John's Kindergarten—Enrollment Now Open for the 2025-2026 School Year for Kindergarten and Pre-K. For information call 704-636-4404 or email at kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org. We are also seeking to **HIRE** a new Pre-K Teacher. Contact Pastor James: James@stjohns-salisbury.org.

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 by scanning QR code here. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Serenity Sisters—Ages 35-55ish—Join us on **Sun. Jun. 22, from 5-7 pm**, for a time of fellowship and devotions. Email Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org for location and more information.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in honor of the Men's Chorus, by an anonymous donor.

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

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

arr. Michael Burkhardt

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*+

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ☩ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your
church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own
making. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in
captivity; waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN 424*

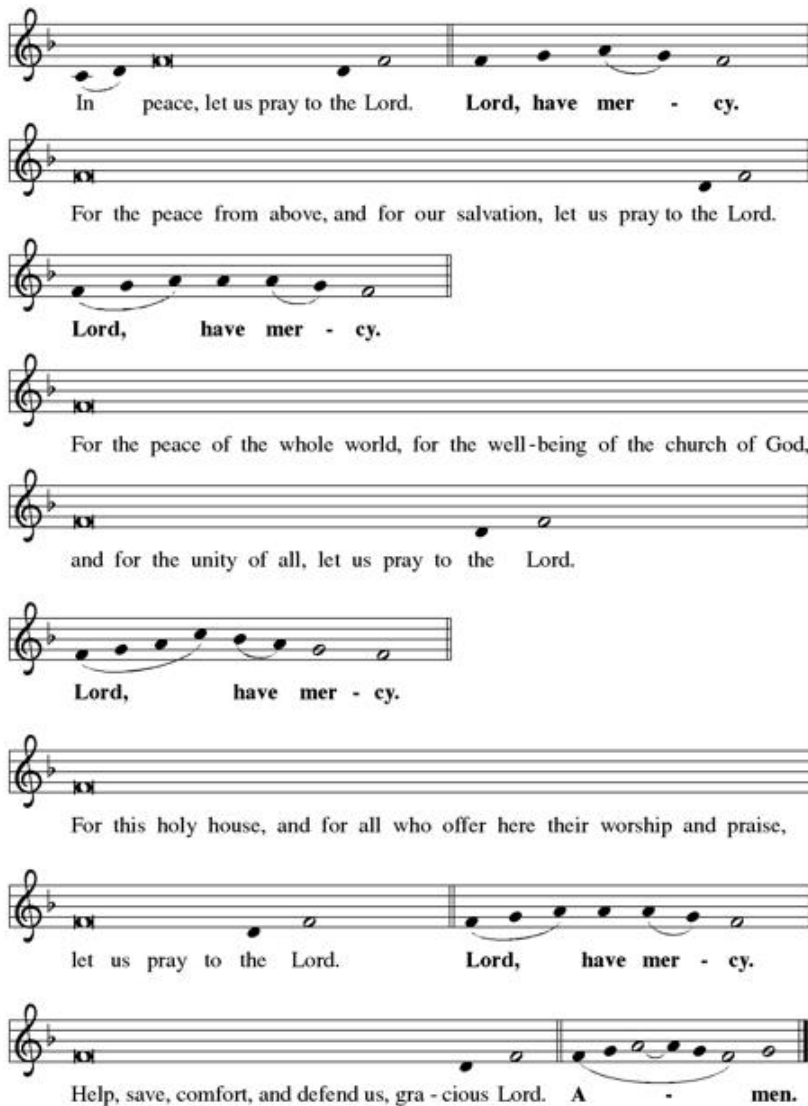
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
(Stanzas 1, 2 & 4)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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.

Refrain

Cantor



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



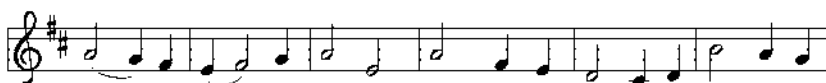
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

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



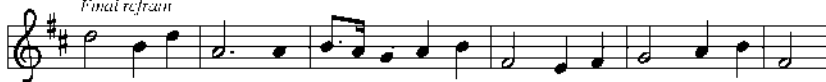
2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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 RECOGNITION OF THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



WORD

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

READING:

Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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!



THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN*

John 13:31-35



After washing the disciples’ feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus’ community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

HYMN 482*

I Come with Joy
(Stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 5)

DOVE OF PEACE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: "Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**"*

PEACE*

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

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace
Kevin Agner, Cellist

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by His mighty enterprise;
We with Him to life eternal by His resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits of the holy harvest field.
Which will all its full abundance of His second coming yield.
Christ is risen, we are risen! Shed upon us heavenly grace.
Rain, and dew and gleams of glory from the brightness of Thy face.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! to the Savior who has gained the victory!
Alleluia, to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity.
Alleluia, Alleluia to the Triune majesty.

Alleluia to the Lamb. Praise to the great I AM. Amen.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 184* *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord*

NELSON

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*

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER*

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign...

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

...we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

...And receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

...Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor
is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



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*

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

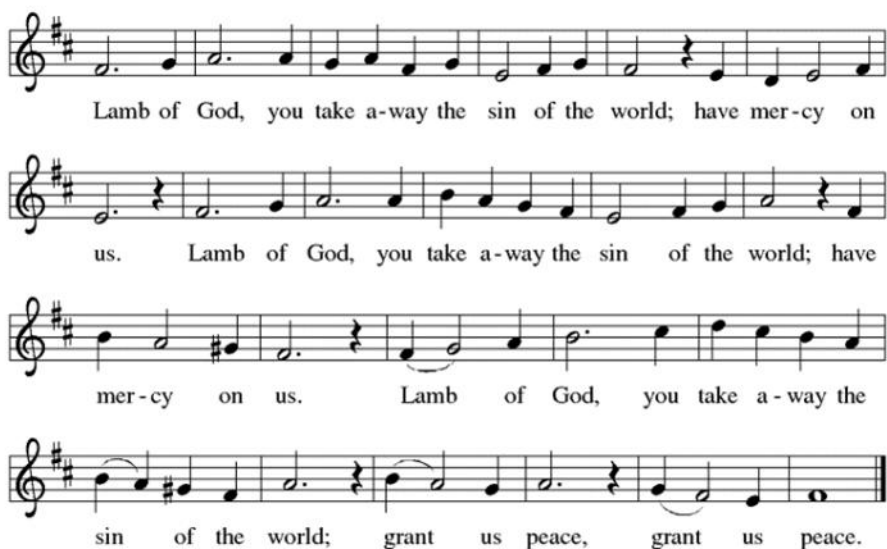
Please be seated

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



Hymn 471
Meditation

Let Us Break Bread Together
Meditation from the opera "Thaïs" by Jules Massenet
Kevin Agner, cello; Mark Tysinger, piano
Eat This Bread, Drink this Cup

Hymn 492

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.



SENDING

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

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

2025 High School Graduates and their immediate families are invited forward to the altar. Our 2025 high school graduates are: Emma Clifton, Lilly Dangerfield, Eden Linski, Charlotte Marcum, Kaydence McDaniel, Luke Mesimer, Drew Rabon, Makara Trick, Ella Wilson, Callie Wisecarver and Ashley Yang.

PRESENTATION AND PRAYER:

A reading from John: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

Members and friends of St. John's, will you promise to keep these graduates and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into the future?
We will.

Will you, as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to help these young people as need and opportunity arise?
We will.

BLESSING WITH FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Graduates are invited to kneel at the altar.

THE CHARGE:

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

BENEDICTION*

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord watch over you and keep you safe.
May the Lord guide your every step.
May you always know of our unending love for you.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 543*

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

DISMISSAL*

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S:

Acolytes—Graham Wilson and Emily Rhyne

Crucifer—Mallory Rhyne

Banner Bearer—Luke Yang

Reader—Ella Wilson

Cantor—Gretchen Witt

St. John's Lutheran Church

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 | 704.636.3431
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 Elliott



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