



*“Rich Fool”* by James B. Janknegt

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 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!*

A reminder that **our nursery** is available during the 11 am worship service. Please see an usher for assistance.

**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.

**Rainbow Makers Back-to-School Supply Drive** – Sponsoring STJ Kindergarten and Child Development Center. As you pick up items for your children, please consider also picking up extra supplies for the CDC and Kindergarten. Boxes will be in Peeler Hall and the Sanctuary Narthex **through Aug. 10**. Please check out the supply wishlist in July's Eagle's View edition.

**Bible Study** – Thursdays at **5:30 pm, through Aug. 21 in Ritchie Hall**. Taught by Dr. Bradley R. Trick, join us as we learn the How (and why) to unify in an age of division as we study the book of Galatians. Sign up with QR code here or on our website.



**Lutheridge 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Capital Campaign** – Your generous gifts can help sustain Lutheridge's camp ministry - as they pass the faith to children and adults for generations to come. Today's handout is titled, "*Sowing Seeds for a Faithful Future*". Be sure to pick up a copy from one of our ushers.

**Blessing of the Backpacks—Aug. 10** – Bring your backpacks for a special blessing next Sunday. During both services, we will pray for our students, as well as faculty and staff as they begin another school year.

**Women's Ministry – Game Night & School Supply Collection – Aug. 12, 6 pm in Ritchie Hall**. Bring a snack to share. The collected school supplies will benefit the Isenberg Elementary School. Scan the QR Code here for a list of supplies needed.



**Church-wide Retreat – Sept. 12-14 at Lutheridge**. The registration deadline is **Mon., Aug. 18 at 5 pm** (subject to change if we sell out). To secure your spot, submit your registration and non-refundable \$50 deposit early - only 150 spots available! Registration forms and total payment in full are due by the registration deadline. To register, scan QR Code here or locate a paper form, available in all our literature racks. Contact Donna Groce with any questions at [Dwgroce93@icloud.com](mailto:Dwgroce93@icloud.com).



**Altar Flowers** – Please visit our website to reserve your altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion. You may also scan the QR code here or call our office for assistance.



## 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

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. Jacob Weber

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS\*+

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

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✙ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN 393\*** *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!* 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 ELEISON\*** *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*

Setting by Robert J. Durocher, Jr.

Voice

(Cantor) Congregation (Cantor)

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 of Victory for Our God*  
 Setting by Robert J. Durocher, Jr.

$\text{♩} = 92$

Voice

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. This is the feast of

6 vic-t'ry for our God. This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. Al-le - lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia!

11 1.Wor - thy is Christ, the - Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

15 Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and - hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

19 This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God.

23 This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. Al-le - lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia. 2.Sing with-all the

28 peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of — all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or,

32 glo - ry and might be to God - and the Lamb for-ev - er, A - men. 3.This is the feast of



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## PRAYER OF THE DAY\*

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

*Let us pray.*

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through 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:

**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*



<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

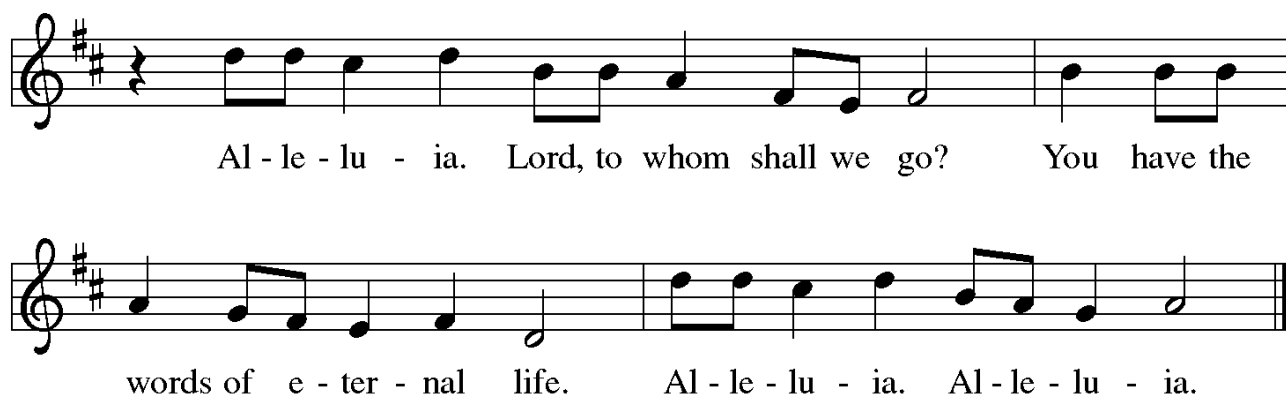
<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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.

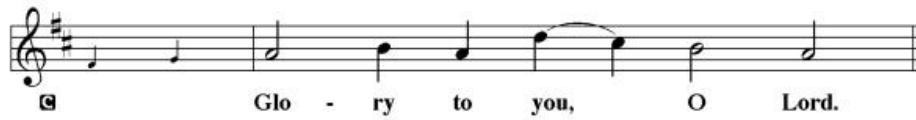
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION\***      *Alleluia!*



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.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE\*

Luke 12:13-21



*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'

<sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

HYMN 655\*

*Son of God, Eternal Savior*

IN BABILONE



**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: "God of grace, **hear 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 ANTHEM**    *This Is My Father's World*  
Makara Trick, Violinist

Maltbie Babcock & Steven Strite

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears,  
All nature sings and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world,  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white  
Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world,  
He shines in all that's fair  
In rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks everywhere.

This is my Father's world,  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world,  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one!

Alleluia



## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN 182\* *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord*

HILLERT

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 the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER\*

Creator God,

In your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

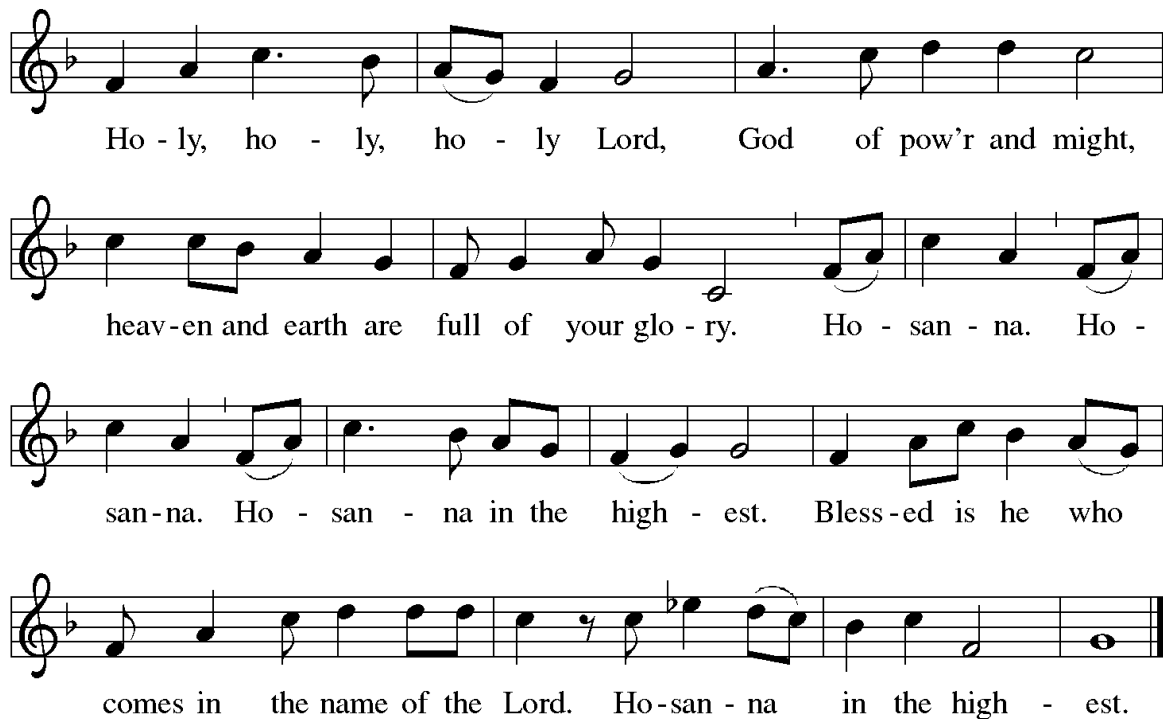
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\*

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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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\*

### 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 kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

*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 HYMNS

*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.

<b>Piano Meditation</b>	<i>Prelude and Fugue #22 in B flat minor BMV 867</i> by J.S. Bach Mark Tysinger, Piano	
<b>Organ Meditation</b>	<i>The King of Love, My Shepherd Is</i> Connie Burleson, Organ	arr. Edwin Childs
<b>Hymn 515</b>	<i>Break Now the Bread of Life</i>	

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING\*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION\*

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING

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

## BENEDICTION\*

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✝ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL\***

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S:**

**Acolyte:** Isaac Schmiesing and Balian Witt

**Crucifer:** Gabriel Shafer

**Banner Bearer:** Landen Ryerson

**Cantor:** Lea Anne Thomas

**Reader:** Mitch Siegel



# 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 Care .....Lori Carter...ext. 2050  
Pastor for Youth and Outreach .....James 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 & 5 year olds), Director...Bonita Rowland...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 Wymbbs...ext. 2180  
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070  
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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