



15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 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!

Bibles & Brews – Men's Ministry - **Tues., Sept. 23, 6 pm** - at the Salty Caper, 115 S. Lee St. Salisbury, NC. We look forward to seeing you there!

Men's Ministry – Beach Retreat – Nov. 14-16. **Deadline to register is Sept. 23.** To RSVP, scan the QR code, visit our website or contact our office. For questions, contact Eric Brady ericbrady@roadrunner.com



New Members Classes—Interested in joining St. John's? Classes will continue for the next two week on **Sept. 24 and Oct. 1** starting at **6:15 pm**. Sign up by scanning the QR code, visit our website or contact: james@stjohns-salisbury.org with questions.



God's Work, Our Hands – **Sun., Sept. 28**, Following a **10 am Unity Service in the Faith Center**. There will be a light lunch for volunteers in Ritchie Hall. There are two volunteer options: Ritchie Hall – various community outreach projects; Zion Hills apartments (landscaping – 1614 Standish St.). **Sign up via QR Code by Sept. 25.**



Serenity Sisters—**Sept. 28, 5 pm**. Ages 35-55 are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and devotion. Please bring a snack to share. For location and details, contact stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org or text 704-798-2644.

Travel to New York City with Pastor Lori and Pastor James – Dec. 4-7. **Registration and Final payment due by Sept. 30.** To sign up, simply call Christian Tours (800-476-3900). Then mail in deposit of \$350 per person within 7 days of making your reservation to: Christian Tours P.O. Box 890, Newton, NC 28658. You may contact Pastor Lori with any questions at lori@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Blessing of the Animals – **Oct. 5, 2-3:30 pm in the St. John's Chapel Breezeway**. We will have a walk-up event where you and your pet can receive a blessing. (*All animals must be on a leash or in a carrier. If your animal cannot attend, feel free to bring a photo.*) We look forward to seeing you there.

1st Grade Milestone – “The Lord's Prayer” - **Oct. 5 at 2 pm in the Ark. RSVP by Oct. 1.** If you have any questions, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Women's Ministry – Packing Party, Oct. 9, 6 pm. Join us for a great time of fellowship and service as we pack food bags at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. Dr. Carl Sachtleben, by The Blackwelders.

GATHERING

*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.*

PRELUDE

'Prelude in G Major'

J.S. Bach

We rise and face the cross.

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 maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we **confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

'Son of God, Eternal Savior'

ELW 655

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

Leader

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

1. Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2. Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3. Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Lov-ing God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

...continue...



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**, exiting through the door near the baptismal font. Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.*

Stewardship Temple Talk #1 by Gary Taylor

WORD

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

READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

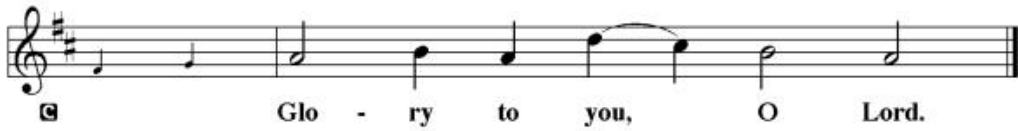
We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-13



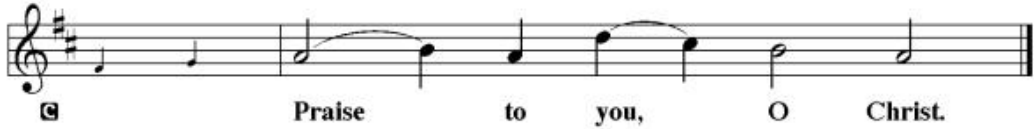
The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘As Saints of Old’

ELW 695

APOSTLES’ CREED

Gathered as God’s people across time and space, we confess our faith:

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 AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:

“God of grace, receive our prayer.”

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

‘Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me’

Arr. K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, For Christ, my Savior, speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And with wisdom to kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, Speak Christ’s sincerity.*

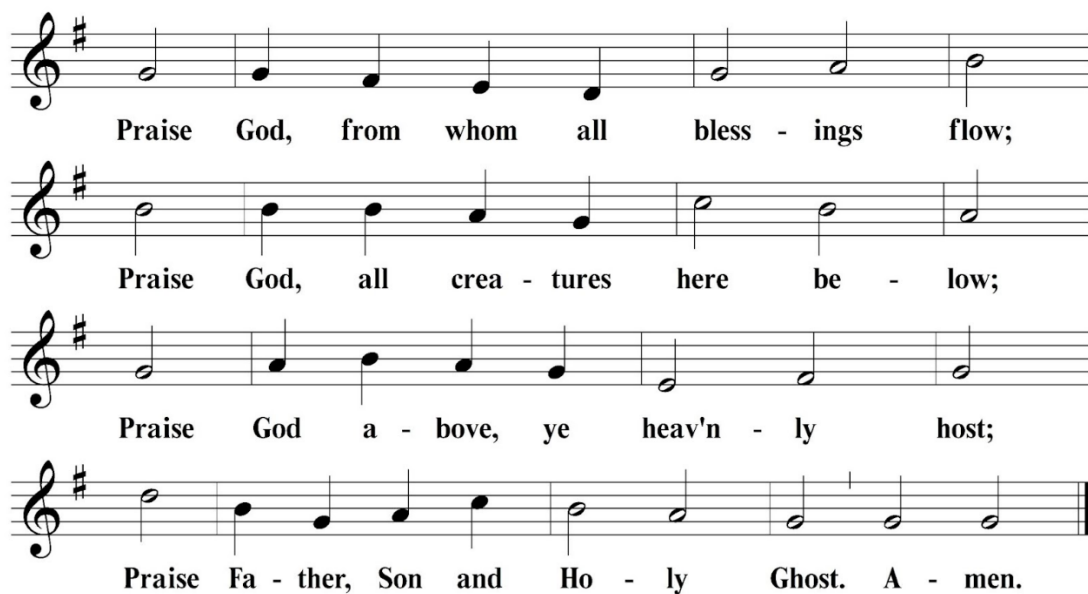
*Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show they mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would And cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow’r to see, I would be like thee;
‘Gainst all weapons hell can wield by thou my strength and shield’
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.*

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Let us pray: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

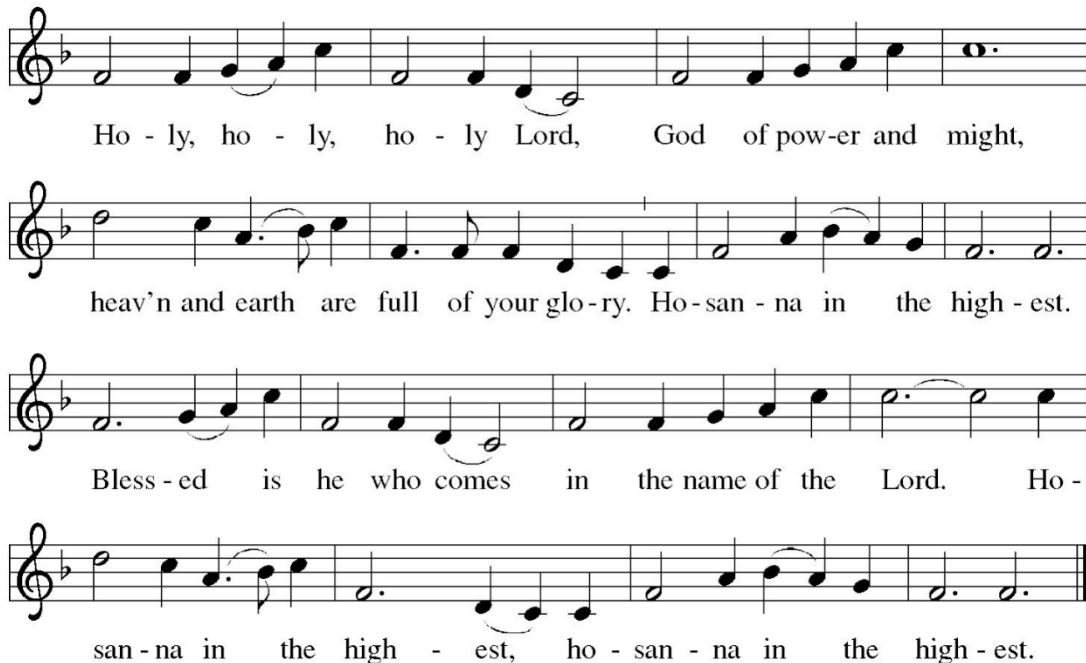
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC AND LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us: **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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION.

All are welcome to the Table, receiving 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 HYMN

'Lamb of God'

S 208



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

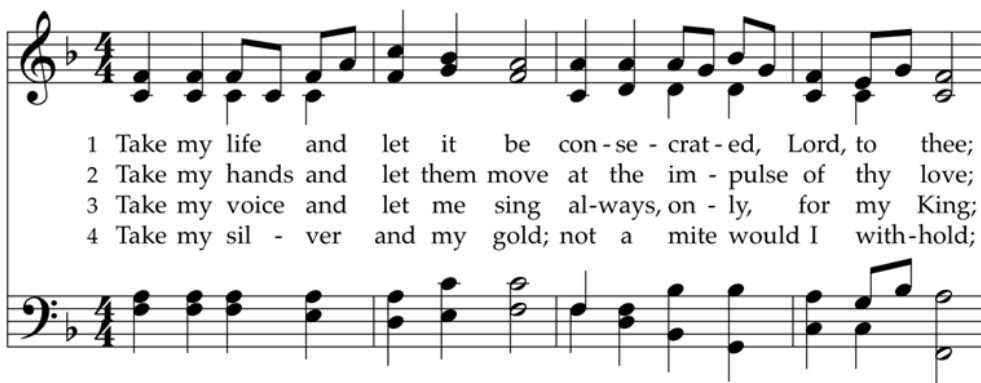
COMMUNION SONG

'Prelude in E flat minor No. 8, BWV 853'
by J.S. Bach, Mark Tysinger

COMMUNION HYMN

'Take My Life'

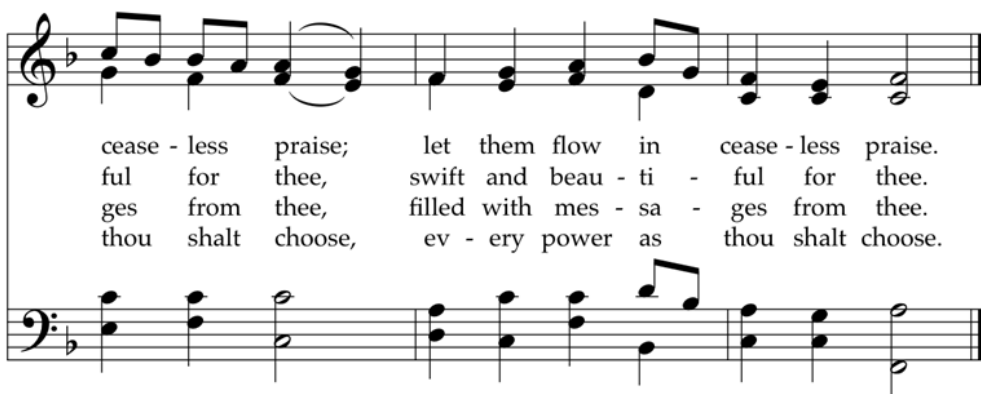
GTG 697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Let us pray: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'Be Thou My Vision'

ELW 793

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....Mark Lewis
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor Lori Carter

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes..... Ashton Williams and Gabriel Shafer
Crucifer.....William Charest
Banner Bearer.....Landen Ryerson

*Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)
and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies, annual license # 26999.*

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

Pastor for Worship and the Arts.....Spence Robertson...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
Communication Specialist.....Stephanie Mesimer...ext. 2220
Ministry Program Coordinator.....Mary Wymbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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