



# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025 | 10 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC  
[stjohns-salisbury.org](http://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 10 am worship service. Please see an usher for assistance.

**Wednesday Night Meals—5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall.** Dinner is served at 5:30 pm and our upcoming menus are tried and true favorites. Reservations are not needed. Visit our website for the menu and to purchase your season pass at [stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays](http://stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays).

**New Members Classes**—Interested in joining St. John's? Classes will be held on **Sept. 17, 24 and Oct. 1 starting at 6:15 pm.** Sign up by scanning the QR code here, on our website or contact: [james@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:james@stjohns-salisbury.org).



**Men's Ministry Breakfast – Tues., Sept. 20, 8:30-10:30 am** – “P.J.” Smith, Salisbury Chief of Police will be the keynote speaker. Men of all ages are welcome!

**3 and 4 yr Old Milestone** – “*March with Thanksgiving*” - **Sept. 21 at 2 pm in the Ark.** RSVP by Sept. 17. If you have any questions, contact [Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org).

**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, you may scan the QR code here, visit our website or contact our office. Contact Eric Brady [ericbrady@roadrunner.com](mailto:ericbrady@roadrunner.com) with any 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.**



**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](mailto:lori@stjohns-salisbury.org).

**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.





# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God*

## PRELUDE

*The King of Love, My Shepherd Is*

arr. Peter Pinder Stearns

## 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.*

Merciful and loving God,  
**We are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**

**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.**

## 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) Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Lord have mer - cy. (Cantor) Chr - i - ste e -

6 Congregation le - i - son, Christ have - mer - cy. 2nd time Christ, have - mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE\*

*This is the Feast*

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.



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



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. This is the feast of 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. 2.Sing with - all the



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



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



vic-t'ry for our God. This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God. For the Lamb who was



slain be-gins his reign. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu ia. Al - le lu ia, al le lu ia.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY\*

*Let us pray.*

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, 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:

**Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION\*

*Alleluia!*



## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE\*

Luke 15:1-10



<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## SERMON

Pastor Darrell Norris

## HYMN 502\*

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
(Stanzas 1-2, 5-6)

ST. COLUMBA

**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, **receive 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

*God of Great and God of Small*

Natalie Sleeth

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.

God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,  
God of never ending power, yet beside me every hour,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.

God of silence, God of sound, God in whom the lost are found,  
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right.

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,  
God of now and days before, God who reigns for evermore,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Praised be Thy Name.



## 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\*

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.**

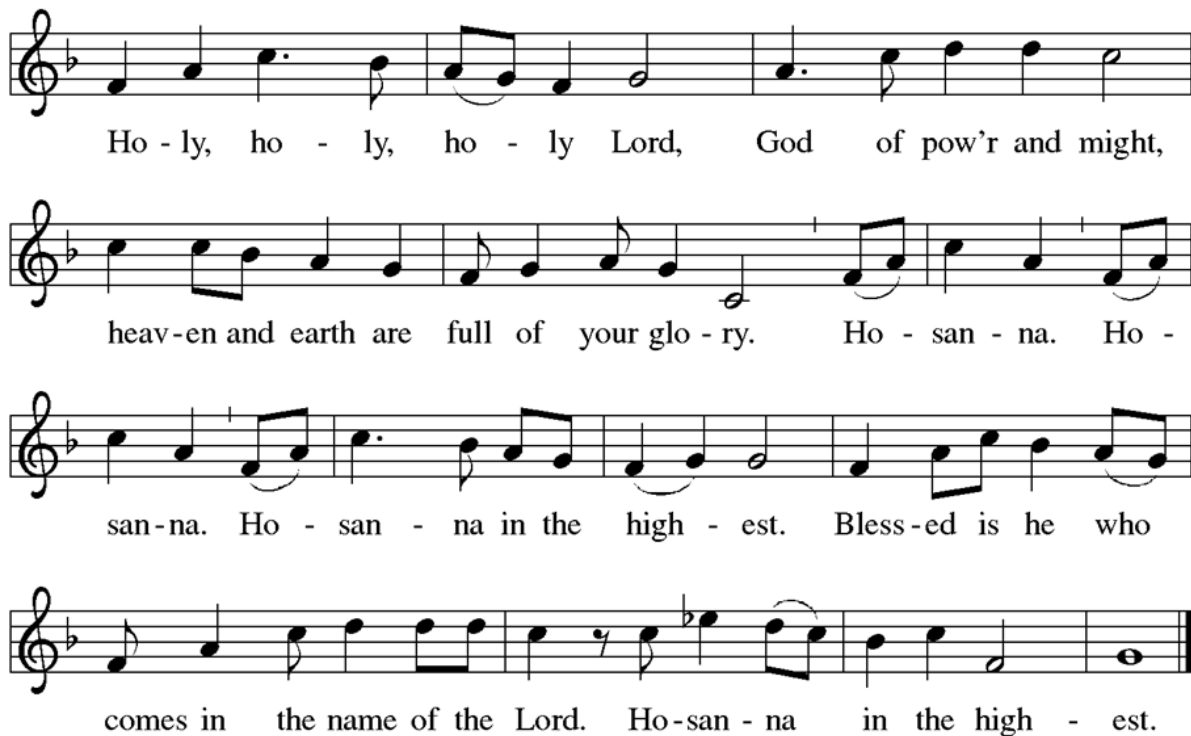
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\*

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\*

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

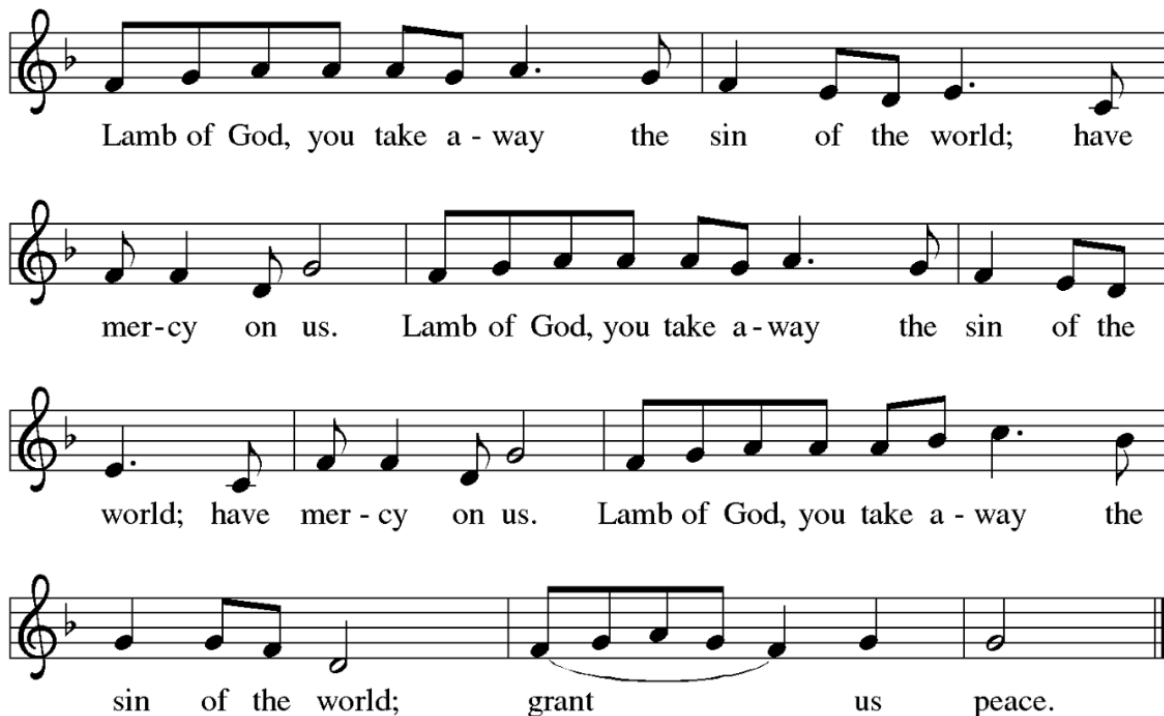
*Please be seated*

***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 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.

**Piano Meditation**

*Meditation on the Fourteenth*  
Davis Brown, Piano

by Davis Brown

**Hymn 481**

*Come to the Table*

**Hymn 472**

*Eat This Bread*

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING\***

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION\***

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.*

## **BENEDICTION\***

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 834\*** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

**DISMISSAL\***

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

**POSTLUDE**

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## **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

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

**Acolyte:** Noah Trick and Waylen Jarrett

**Crucifer:** Noah Young

**Banner Bearer:** Gabriel Young

**Cantor:** Gretchen Witt

**Reader:** Gerrie Blackwelder

**Assisting Minister:** Corinne Mauldin

# 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 Care .....Lori Carter...ext. 2050  
Pastor for Youth and Outreach .....James 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  
Communications 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.*