



Title: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Artist: Daphne Stephenson. Year: 2019.

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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!

Consecration Sunday Preacher—Welcome Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith, Bishop Emeritus of the North Carolina Synod, and whose family originally joined St. John's in 1968 when he was eight.

Consecration of Pledge Cards—Members are encouraged to complete their Pledge card indicating their planned financial support for the ministries of St. John's in 2026. Cards were mailed to members late last month. Cards are available in the pew in front of you. Please bring your completed card and place it in the basket at the front of the nave when you come to receive Communion. *Thank you for your faithful generosity!*

Trick or Treat So Others May Eat – Pick up a bag in the narthex after the service and fill with non-perishable items. **Filled bags must be returned by Oct. 26.** Proceeds will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries.

Octogenarian Luncheon – Oct. 26, 12:30 in Ritchie Hall. There is still time to RSVP if you are 80 or older, by calling the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

3rd Grade Milestone – “Good News, God News” - Oct. 26 at 2 pm in the Ark. RSVP by Oct. 22. If you have any questions, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Serenity Sisters – Oct. 26 at 5 pm. Contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org to join or for more information.

CDC and St. John's Kindergarten Trunk or Treat—Oct. 31 at 10 am. *Candy Donations needed*—Drop off boxes are located in Ritchie Hall, the Sanctuary Narthex and in Peeler Hall. Candy must not contain nuts or peanut butter, due to allergies. We greatly appreciate your donations for this fun event! Please contact Lea Anne Thomas at leanne@stjohns-salisbury.org with any questions.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in memory of Pat and Sonny Epting by Darryl and Barbara Corriher.

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

*'I Can Pray'
Toni Sullivan*

Kingdom Kids

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

'Rise Up, O Saints of God'

ELW 669

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: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.*

WORD

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

READING

Ruth 1:12-18

A reading from Ruth.

²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-6



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



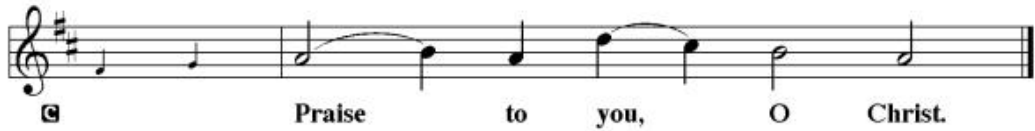
Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to John.



¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

'Day by Day'

ELW 790

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

‘Come by Here’
Kyle Pederson

*Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
O Lord, come by here.*

*Someone’s prayin’, Lord, come by here.
O Lord, come by here.*

*Someone’s cryin’, Lord, come by here.
O Lord, come by here.*

*In the morning, Lord,
In the evening, waking, sleeping, Lord,
you are here.*

*In my pleading, Lord,
In my waiting, caring, loving, blessing, grieving,
you are here.*

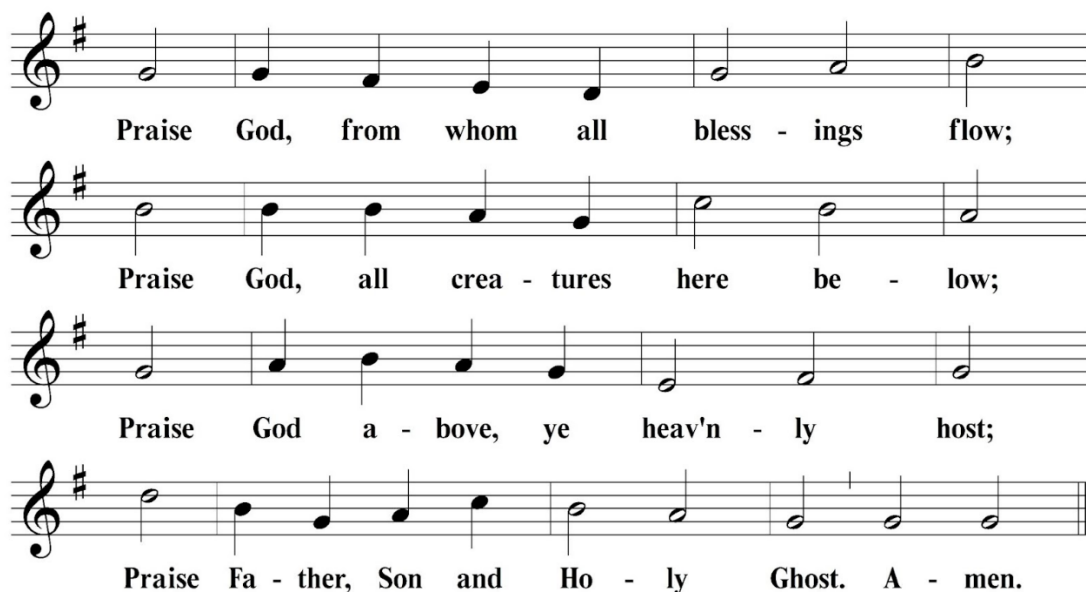
*In my hoping, longing, Lord,
In my falling, hiding, rising, healing, aching,
laughing, praising, seeking finding,
breathing, dying, Lord,

you are here.*

*Come by here, my Lord, come by here.
O Lord, come by here.*

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.

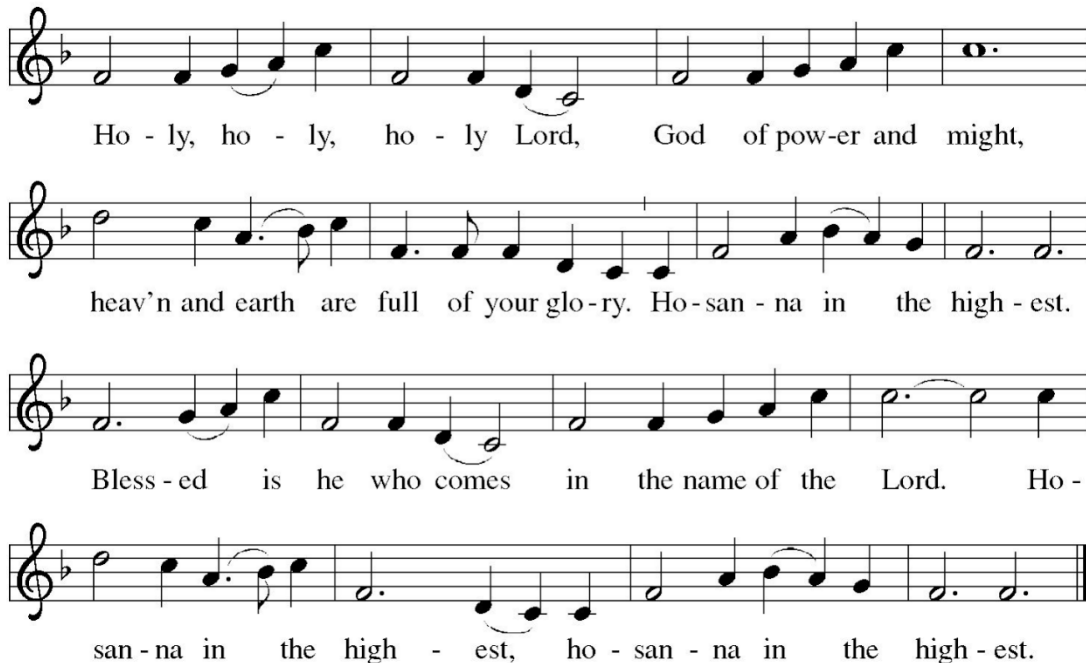
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

RECEPTION OF PLEDGE CARDS

Place your completed card in the basket at the front of the center aisle as you come forward to receive Communion. We will consecrate them to the support of God's work through St. John's following

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

'Come Thou Fount'
performed, Lea Anne Thomas

arr. John Helgen

COMMUNION HYMN *'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'*

ELW 742

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.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Let us pray: Gracious and loving God, accept our pledges in grateful thanksgiving to you for your abundant grace in our lives and the redemption we have through Christ Jesus. Give us faith to recognize your work in our lives, give us joy in serving you, and lead us in the building up of faith in more and more people. We dedicate these pledges for your mission through St. John's during 2026 to you, O God, and to your glory alone, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. **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

'O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate'

ELW 722

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....Gretchen Witt
Reader.....Mitch Siegel
Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....C.J. Sifford and Anson Ward
Crucifer.....Gabriel Shafer
Banner Bearer.....Brenden Sifford

*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.*