



Title: Reformation. Date: 2013. Artist: Stushie Art.

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025 | 11:00 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!

Our nursery is available during the 11 am worship service. Please see an usher for assistance.

Annual Campaign—Please complete your Pledge card as soon as possible so that we can finalize the 2026 budget and present it to the congregation (stjohns-salisbury.org/annual-campaign). Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of St. John's!

Serenity Sisters – Today at 5 pm. Contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org for location, 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.

Installation of Pastor Spence Robertson. Join us on **Sun., Nov. 16th at 2 pm** for a special worship service as we officially welcome Pr. Spence into the pastoral ministry at St. John's. There will be a light reception to follow in Ritchie Hall.

5th Grade Milestone – “Prayer” - Nov. 16 at 2 pm in the Ark. RSVP by Nov. 12. If you have any questions, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

A Service of Comfort and Hope—Nov. 16 at 4 pm in the Chapel. We are offering a Service of Comfort and Hope for people who may be struggling as the holiday season approaches. For many it is a season of joy and celebrations. However, for some, it may be the first holiday without a beloved family member or it may be a time that has always been difficult. You will be invited to light a candle to signify the light of Christ who broke through the darkness and is still shining with us.

Faith Center's 10th Anniversary – Nov. 21, 6-8 pm. Join us in **Peeler Hall**, as we gather for finger foods and drinks followed by a time of music, recognition and looking to the future.

Angel Tree Sponsors—Beginning today, Angel Tree tags are available. The trees will be in Peeler Hall by the Front Desk and in the Sanctuary narthex. Please list your tag number(s) on the sign-up sheet by the tree and take a handout with the details. **Unwrapped Items are due back by Dec. 8** and should be brought to Peeler Hall or delivered directly to the Salvation Army as stated on the tag.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ and in memory of Martin Luther, whose beliefs and actions birthed the resurrection and the formation of the Lutheran Church, by Mark and Corinne Mauldin.



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: music prepares hearts and minds for worship, creating a space for prayer and reflection before the service begins (Psalm 150:3–6, “Praise him with trumpet sound... let everything that breathes praise the Lord!”).

Confession and Forgiveness: we honestly name our sin and hear God's promise of mercy, renewing our relationship with God and one another. The confessional response is from Luther's Prayers, written in 1524.

PRELUDE

‘Rejoice, O My Spirit’

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.**

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

...continue...

Gathering Hymn: in receiving forgiveness, we sing together as worship unfolds, uniting our voices in praise, drawing closer into God's presence (Psalm 100:2, "Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.").

"A Mighty Fortress" was written between 1527 and 1529 by Dr. Martin Luther, a German reformer, preacher, translator of Scripture, and prolific writer and composer. It is based on Psalm 46. Although the hymn has often been called "the battle hymn of the Reformation," its origin is unclear. Some theories suggest it served as a hymn of comfort during the Peasants' Revolt, an outpouring of Luther's inner struggles—possibly due to the death of his daughter Elizabeth—or a response to a plague outbreak in Wittenberg.

Greeting: the presiding minister welcomes us with words of grace, reminding us of God's presence and our unity in Christ (2 Corinthians 13:13 – "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ... be with all of you.").

Kyrie: Greek for "Lord have mercy," is a prayer for mercy for the church, the world, and all in need, calling on God's compassion (Mark 10:47, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!").

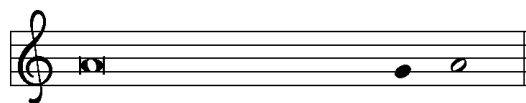


he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

...continue...



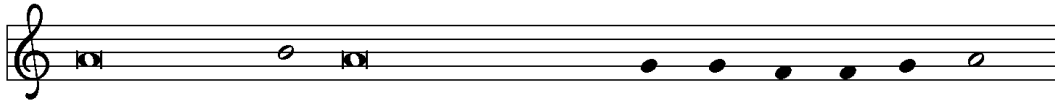
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Canticle of Praise: we sing joyfully in response to God's saving work, especially during festive seasons (Revelation 5:13, "to the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!").

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

Let us pray: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.*



WORD

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

READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36

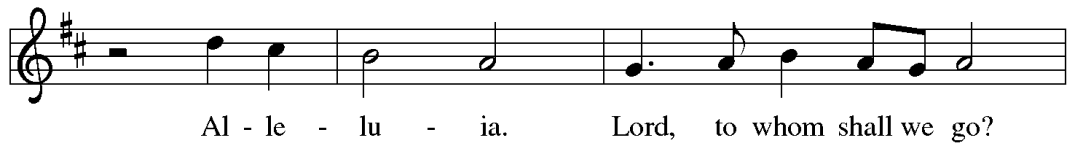
Prayer of the Day: this prayer gathers the themes of the day's Scripture readings and prepares us to hear God's Word.

Scripture Reading: following a three year lectionary cycle, we hear of the fullness of the salvation story, encountering the living God (John 5:39; Luke 24:27).

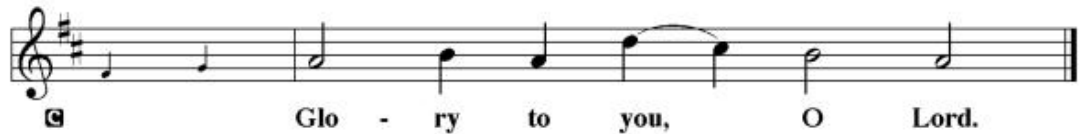
Gospel Acclamation: a sung verse welcoming the Gospel, celebrating Christ's presence in the Word (John 6:68, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.").

Sermon: Martin Luther writes, "a Christian congregation should never gather together without the preaching of God's Word," that the "one thing" that is "needful" is to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear his teaching daily. Preaching brings God's word into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

*We rise as the scriptures are read in the nave.
The organist will improvise an extended introduction.*



The Holy Gospel according to John.



³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.
SERMON

Dan Joyner Miller

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Hymn of the Day: a central hymn reflecting the Scripture and sermon, allowing the congregation to respond to and proclaim the gospel through song.

Creed: Latin for “credo,” meaning, “I believe.” To “confess” means to make a declaration of what one believes. When we confess the faith of the Christian church in the words of the Apostles’ Creed, we are confessing our belief in who the Holy Trinity is, and what God has done for us.

Prayers of Intercession: we pray for the church, the world, and those in need, trusting God hears and responds to our cries (Philippians 4:6, “In everything by prayer and supplication... let your requests be made known to God.”).

Peace: we share Christ’s peace with one another (John 20:19-23), affirming reconciliation and unity before approaching the table (Matthew 5:23-24, “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift”).

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

In response to God's grace proclaimed, we gather our gifts to offer them to God and to use in God's mission. All are invited to participate in God's mission either by placing your offering in the offering plate, scanning the QR Code provided, or giving online at stjohns-salisbury.org.



Anthem: is a choral piece of music that accompanies the gathering of gifts, expressing continued proclamation of the word or theme of the day, our gratitude and devotion (Psalm 96:8, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering...").

ANTHEM

'Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation'

David Stanley York

*Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord to lead us,
binding all the church in one.
Alleluia, alleluia, Lord thou art our strength alone.*

*To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy mercy, love and patience
hear thy people as we pray.
Holy, holy, holy, show us truth, the light, the way.*

*Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.*

*Alleluia! Jesus Christ, Holy, holy, Thanks be to Thee.
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Latin 7th Century text
Translated by John Neale*

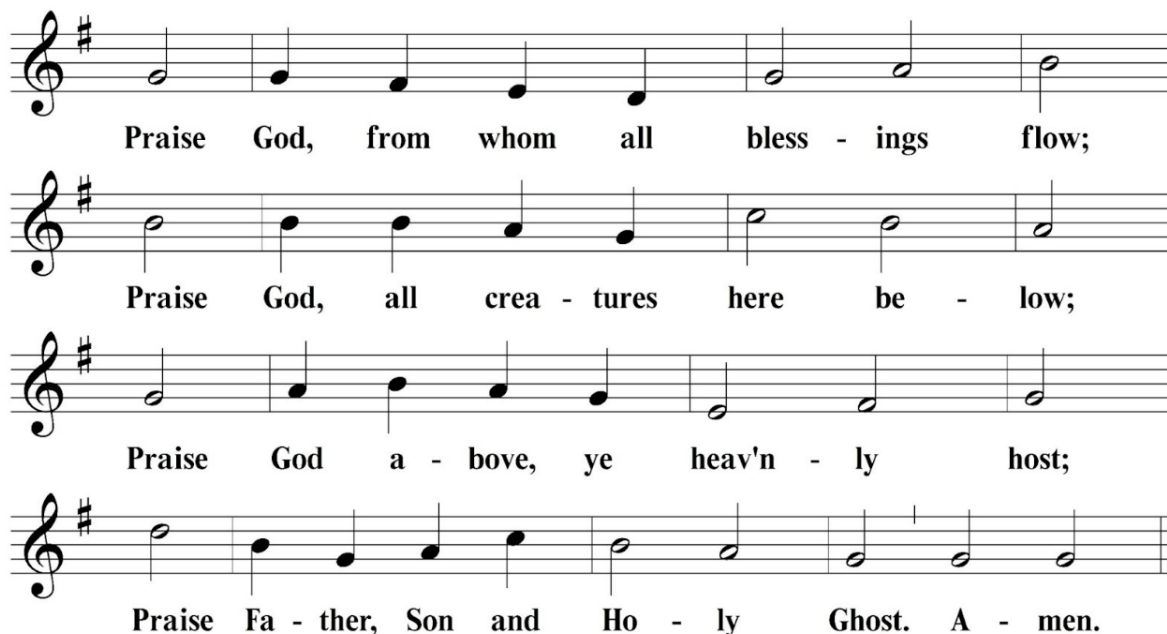
*Praise God from Whom
All Blessings Flow,'
accompanies the presentation
of the gifts. This brief
doxology (liturgical formula
for praising God) is perhaps
most recognizable piece of
music throughout the
Christian world.*

*Offering Prayer: we dedicate
our gifts and ourselves to
God's service with a brief
prayer of thanksgiving (2
Corinthians 9:11, "You will
be enriched... for your
generosity, which produces
thanksgiving to God.").*

*Great Thanksgiving:
through the centuries,
The Lord's Supper has been
known as the Eucharist,
meaning "to give thanks."
Appropriately, the first
words of our communion
liturgy are words of
thanksgiving (Psalm 107:1,
"O give thanks to the Lord,
for the Lord is good...").*

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: summarizes God's salvation story, prompting a musical response to the works of God proclaimed.

Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy"): we join the angels and saints in praising God's holiness and glory as we prepare for communion (Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts...").

Eucharistic Prayer: a prayer of thanksgiving recalling God's saving deeds and Jesus' words at the Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, "Do this in remembrance of me...").

Lord's Prayer: we pray the prayer Jesus taught, seeking God's kingdom, daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance (Matthew 6:9–13, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...").

Invitation to Communion: all baptized are invited to the table, where Christ gives himself in bread and wine for life and forgiveness (Matthew 26:26–28, "Take, eat; this is my body... drink... this is my blood...").

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, 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 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.**

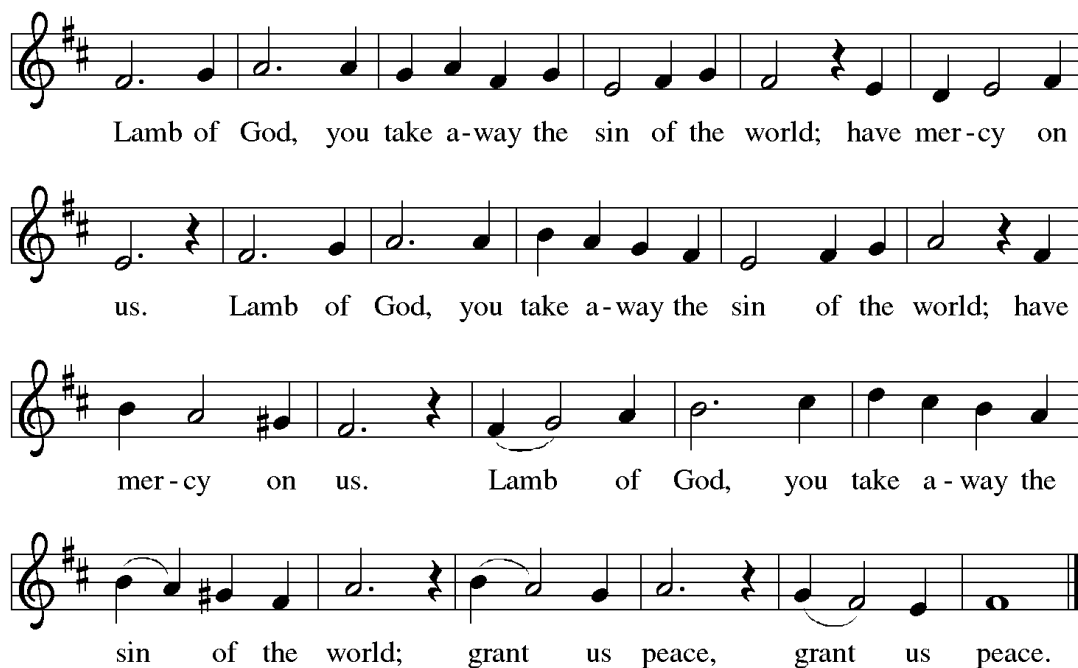
Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All 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 Distribution: the congregation receives the body and blood of Christ, a foretaste of the feast to come (John 6:51, "I am the living bread... whoever eats this bread will live forever.").

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God: focuses the congregation's attention on Jesus Christ as the sacrificial Lamb, whose death takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29, "Behold, the Lamb of God.").

COMMUNION SONG

*'Courant Dolorosa'
by Samuel Scheidt*

Communion Songs: during communion express gratitude, reflection, and unity in Christ's presence (Psalm 34:8, "O taste and see that the Lord is good...").

Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

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.**

Post-Communion Blessing: the presiding minister blesses the gathered community, affirming God's gifts received in the sacrament.

Post-Communion Prayer: we thank God for this meal and pray for strength to love and serve in the world (Psalm 103:2, "Bless the Lord... and do not forget all his benefits.").

Blessing: God's presence and promise are spoken over the people as they prepare to go into the world (Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds...").

Sending Hymn: a final hymn of praise and encouragement sends us forth with joy and purpose (Psalm 95:1, "O come, let us sing to the Lord...").

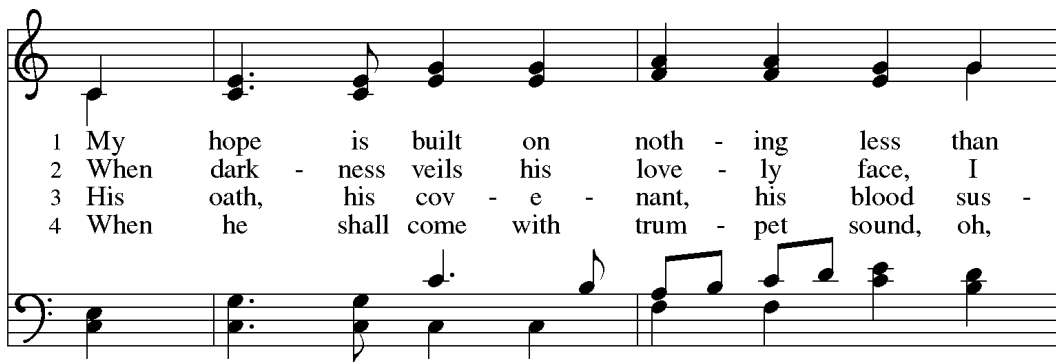
Dismissal: we are sent to love and serve the Lord in daily life. The congregation responds with gratitude (Matthew 28:19–20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...").

Postlude: music concludes the service and accompanies the congregation into the world in peace (Psalm 98:4, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth...").

SENDING SONG

'My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less'

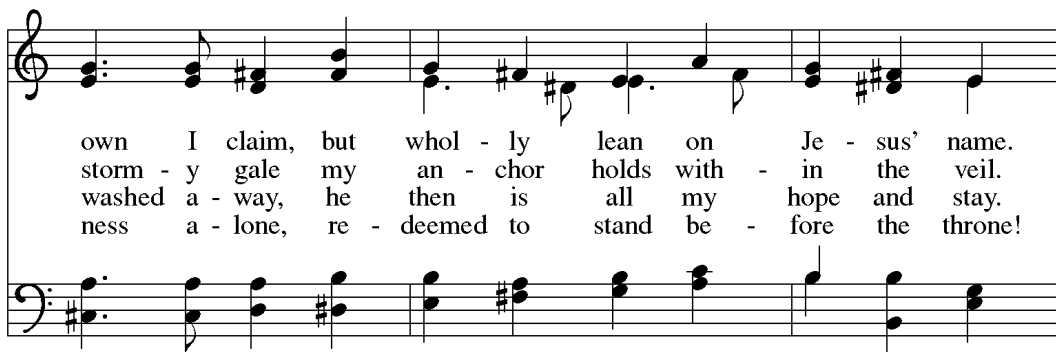
ELW 597



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

'La Bataille' from The Danserye
by T. Susato

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....Mark Lewis
Reader.....Mary Willis Page
Preacher.....Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Lori Carter

INSTRUMENTALIST

Trumpets.....Samuel Santiago, Nico McLaurin
Horn.....Melanie Watson
Trombones.....Charlie Fisher, Sacha Witt
Timpani.....Davis Brown

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Brenna Baucom and Cooper Charest
Crucifer.....Will Charest
Banner Bearer.....Gabriel Shafer

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



Tags are hung on the trees located in the Sanctuary narthex and in Peeler Hall.
(See page 2 for details.)

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 Wymbbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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