



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025 | 11:00 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!*

**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.

**"Humble and Holy" - Advent Devotionals** - Available in our literature racks and at the church office. Be sure to get yours today!

**Advent Music and Meditation - Dec. 8 and 15 at 12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel.** Dec. 8 will feature Helen Rifas (harp), and Dec. 15 will feature Kevin Agner (cello) and Mark Tysinger (piano).

**Women's Ministry Annual Christmas Party - Dec. 11 at 6 pm.** Join us for a festive and fun night of food, laughter and fellowship. Bring your favorite snack to share, along with a \$10-\$15 item for a fun Gift Exchange. Location is at Leigh Ann Loeblein's house: 460 Mainsail Rd. in Salisbury. Transportation is available. Contact Rosalind Hines at 336-671-7551 for more details.

**Young Adult Christmas Party – Fri., Dec. 12, 6-8 pm at the home of Pastor James and Nicole Demmel.** Please RSVP by scanning the QR code here or contact Pastor James at [james@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:james@stjohns-salisbury.org).



**Poinsettias - Order deadline is Fri., Dec. 12.** Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. John's as we decorate our worship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Poinsettia purchases or donations to the general decorating fund can be made on our website, via QR code here, or complete a paper form located in our literature racks.



**Live Simulcast Presentation - Bethlehem Lessons and Carols - Dec. 13 from 9-11:30 am in the Faith Center.** Join us for a community simulcast presentation of a joint Advent service with Christmas Lutheran, Bethlehem, West Bank and Episcopal Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA.

**Men's Chorus Christmas Concert – "The Work of Christmas" Dec. 14 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary,** with Guest Instrumentalists, Handbells, and Narration. Directed by Jason Harwood, and Accompanied by Janie Rollins, Thom Hinson, and Spence Robertson.

**St. John's Apparel** – We have new items available for fall and winter. **On sale now through Dec. 14.** Proceeds will benefit our Outreach Ministry Fund. Click the QR code here or online to view images and place your order.



**Altar Flowers** – Our **2026 Altar Flower Order Form** is open with many dates available. Secure your reservation in honor or memory of your loved one(s) by clicking the QR code here, via FaithLife or on our website.



## Annual Meeting | December 14, 10:15 in the Faith Center

Members are encouraged to join us for a vote on the 2026 Budget  
and elect **five** new Council Members

*Council Nominees:* George Almond; Elaine Holden; Tom Loeblein;  
Brent Patterson; Tammy Safrit

*Youth Nominees:* Landen Ryerson and Jillian Towns

*Benevolent Fund Trustee Nominee:* Mark Lewis

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## 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

*We rise and face the cross.*



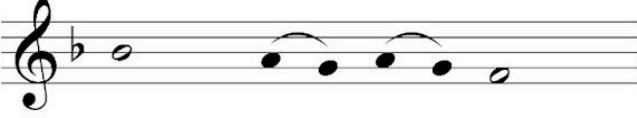

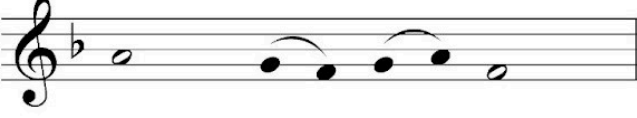

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*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,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
	
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.
	
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## 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.**



*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.*

## ADVENT LIGHTING AND SONG

*The family comes forward during the song.*

*The Roy Family,  
TJ, Lizzy, Anelise, Hannah Jean  
will light the Advent wreath.*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: 'Come, Light of the World. Come, Light of the World. Hear us we pray: Come, light our way. Come, Light of the World.' The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Come, Light of the World.

Come, Light of the World.

Hear us we pray: Come, light our way.

Come, Light of the World.

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light the second candle.*

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*The reader comes forward during the music.*

## WORD

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

### READING

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 11.

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We rise.*

### GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 3:1-12**

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Quarter note (B-flat), quarter note (D), quarter note (F), quarter note (A), quarter note (B-flat). Lyrics: Come, Light of the World.
- Staff 2: Quarter note (B-flat), quarter note (D), quarter note (F), quarter note (A), quarter note (B-flat). Lyrics: Come, Light of the World.
- Staff 3: Quarter note (B-flat), quarter note (D), quarter note (F), quarter note (A), quarter note (B-flat). Lyrics: Hear us we pray: Come, light our way.
- Staff 4: Quarter note (B-flat), quarter note (D), quarter note (F), quarter note (A), quarter note (B-flat). Lyrics: Come, Light of the World.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**Teagan Kay Gardner**

*Child of Garrett and Gabriella Gardner*

*Godparents: Katie Nickerson, Kaz Ivanov and Mallory Langley*

**PRESENTATION**

*Baptismal family gathers at the font.*

People of God, do you promise to support Teagan and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

*We rise.*

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

People of God, do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God...unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **RITE OF BAPTISM**

*The Rite of Baptism includes three symbols used in baptismal liturgy since the beginning of the church: water (for cleansing), oil (for sealing), and light (for proclaiming).*

*Baptism with Water. Teagan is baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*Imposition of Oil. Oil is used to make the sign of the cross on Teagan's forehead, a symbol that seals her in relationship with Christ.*

*Gift of Light. Teagan is welcomed into the Family of God. A candle (the light of Christ) is presented to her with the words, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).*



Let us welcome the newly baptized: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming Word to all the world.**

*As Teagan is introduced to the congregation; all are invited to sing:*

## **BAPTISMAL SONG**

### **'Jesus Loves Me'**

**ELW 595**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain*

## **PRAYER AND PEACE**

*Each petition concludes with the following:*  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Be seated.*

## **OFFERING AND ANTHEM**

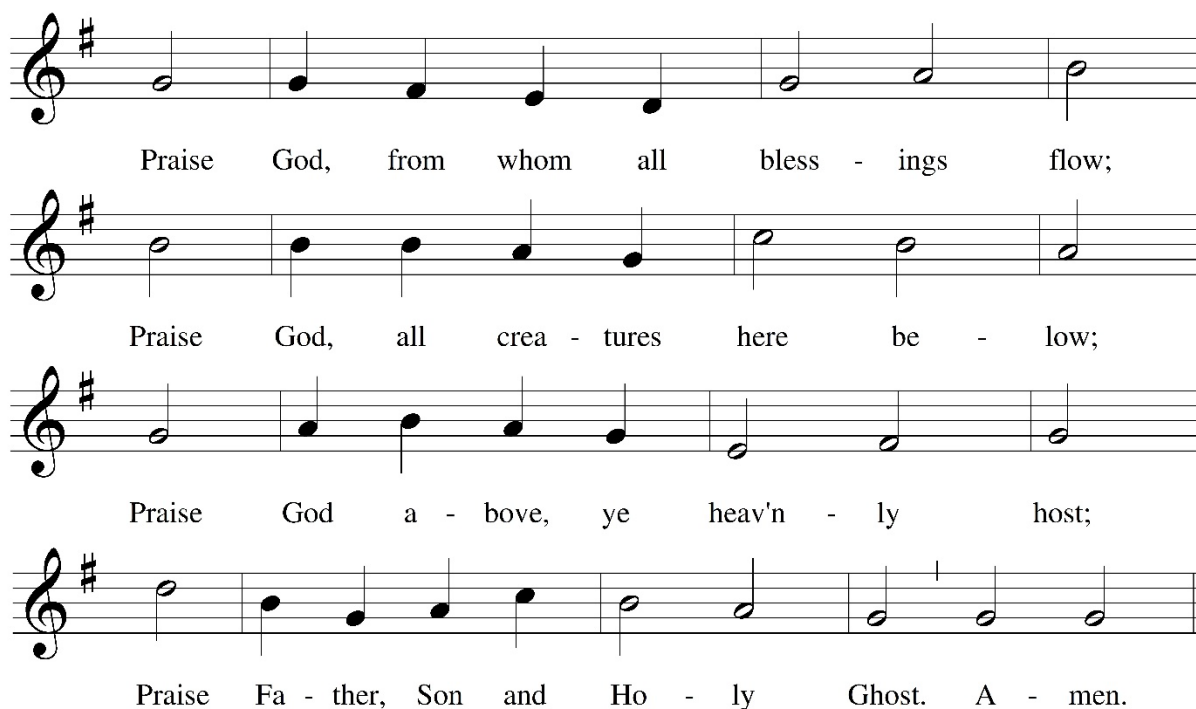
### **'Creation Will Be At Peace'**

*By Anna Laura Page*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;  
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.  
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,  
their young will play together; a little child will lead.  
In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;  
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.  
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.  
They will war no more, a child will lead them all.*

*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:* Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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.**

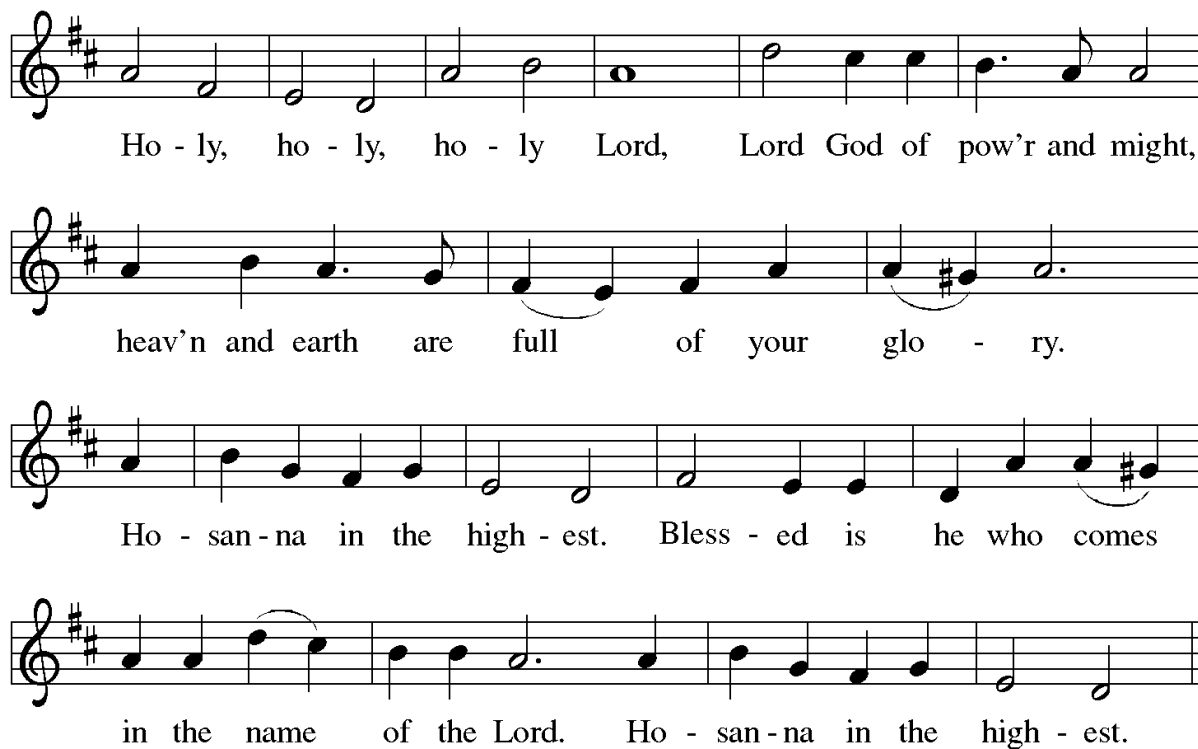
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



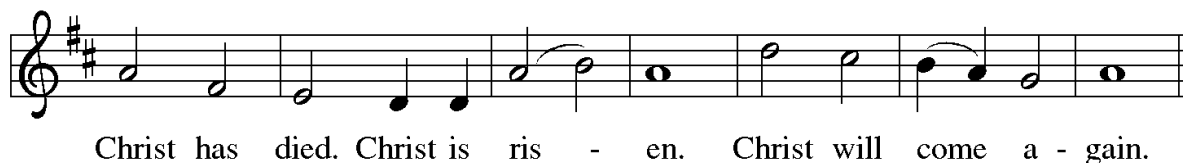
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. [ *Sung* ] **Amen.**



## 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

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

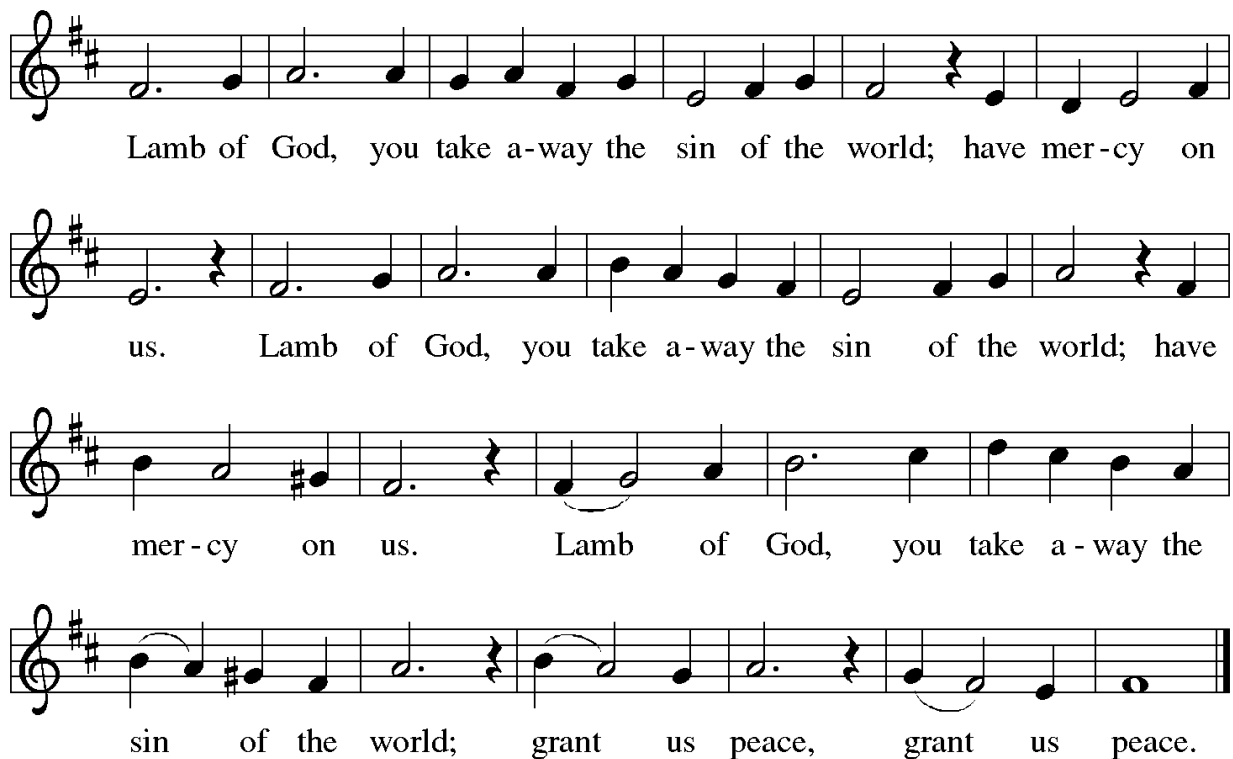
**Thanks be to God.**

*Be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the nave, following the usher's guidance. In the nave, communion is by intinction, dipping bread (gluten free by request) into wine (or grape juice). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.*

## COMMUNION HYMN



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION SONG

*'Coventry Carol'*  
*by John Turner*

*Lea Anne Thomas, piano*

## COMMUNION HYMN

**'Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers'**

**ELW 244**

*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:* God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager  
to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

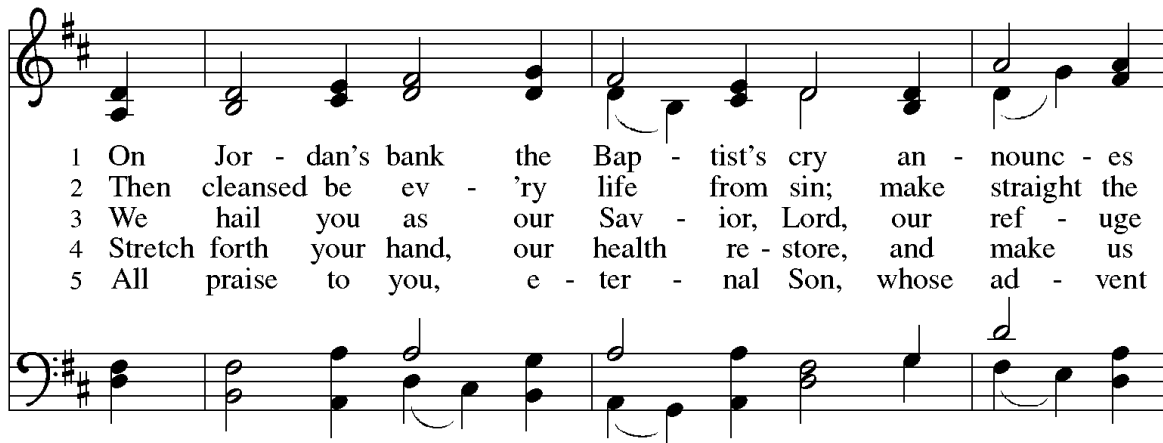
### BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father,  $\dagger$  Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#### 'On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry'

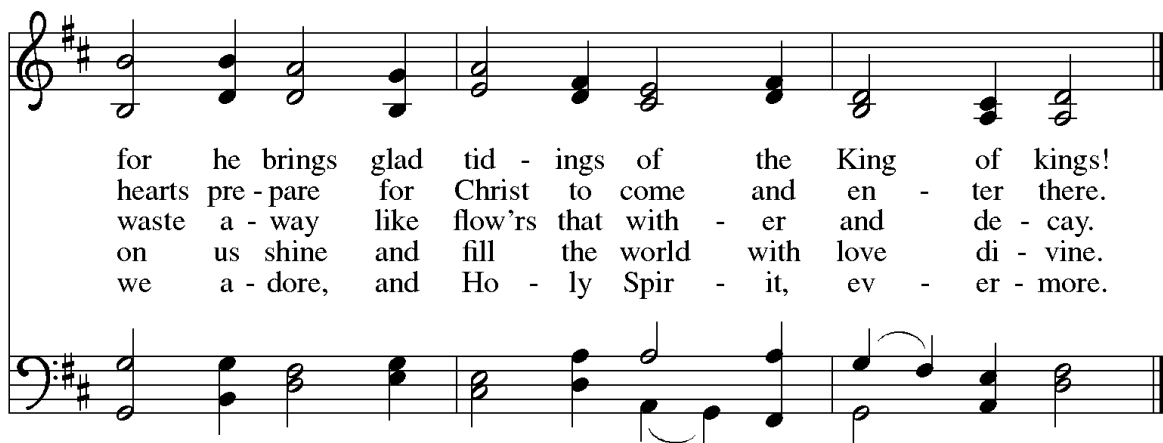
ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.



**DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Cantor.....Mitch Siegel  
Reader.....Corinne Mauldin  
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller  
Presider.....Pastor Spence Robertson

**ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S**

Acolytes..... C.J. Sifford and Hannah Jean Roy  
Crucifer.....Brenden Sifford  
Banner Bearer.....Anelise Roy

# 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  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins...ext. 2190  
Associate Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins  
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz  
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt  
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.*