



Title: Flight by Night. Date: 1923. Artist: Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937.

First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 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!

Offering Envelopes—Are available in the Sanctuary narthex and Peeler Hall through the end of the year, and in the Church Office beginning in January.

Church Office Holiday Schedule – St. John's Church Office will be **closed from Dec. 24 – Jan. 2**, for the Christmas/New Year break. Our Staff will be back in the office on Mon., Jan. 5. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call 704-636-3431 and dial ext. 2990 or select Option "9" for the pastor on call.

Serenity Sisters – Jan. 25 at 5 pm. Contact: Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org to join or for more information.

Bibles & Brews – Men's Ministry - **Tues., Jan. 27, 6 pm** - at East Coast Wings, 211 Faith Rd., Salisbury, NC. We look forward to seeing you there!

Altar Flowers—Given to the Glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ and in honor of our granddaughter, Addison Kay Mauldin, on her baptism into the family of God, 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

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,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. **Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

'Angels, from the Realms of Glory'

ELW 275

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.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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

*No Kingdom Kids Sunday School today.
Children remain in the sanctuary.*

WORD

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

READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 63rd chapter.

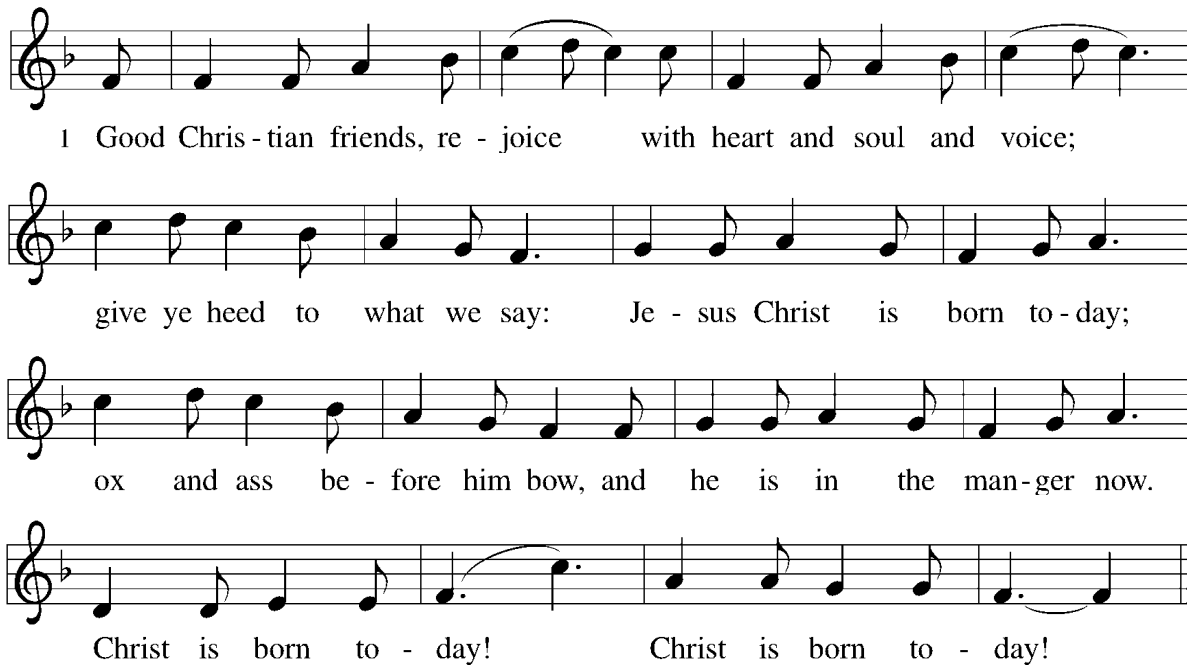
⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lori Carter

REFLECTION SONG

Baptismal family gathers at the font.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Addison Kay Mauldin

Child of Sam and Kaithlyn Mauldin

Godparents: Matt and Alex Mauldin

PRESENTATION

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

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church ...
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel
against God and the ways of sin that draw you from God? *We renounce them.*

We rise.

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. Addison 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 Addison's forehead, a symbol that seals her in relationship with Christ.

Gift of Light. Addison 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 Addison is introduced to the congregation; all are invited to sing:

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:
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

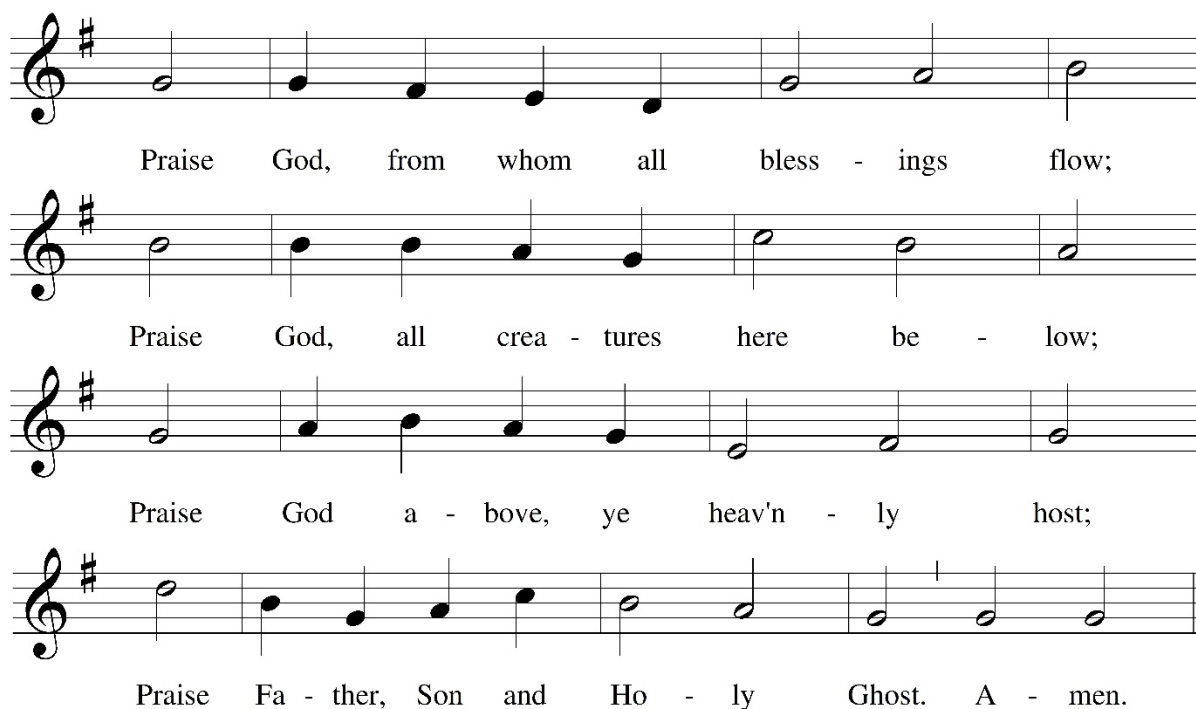
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Be seated.

OFFERING AND MUSICAL SOLO

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: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **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.

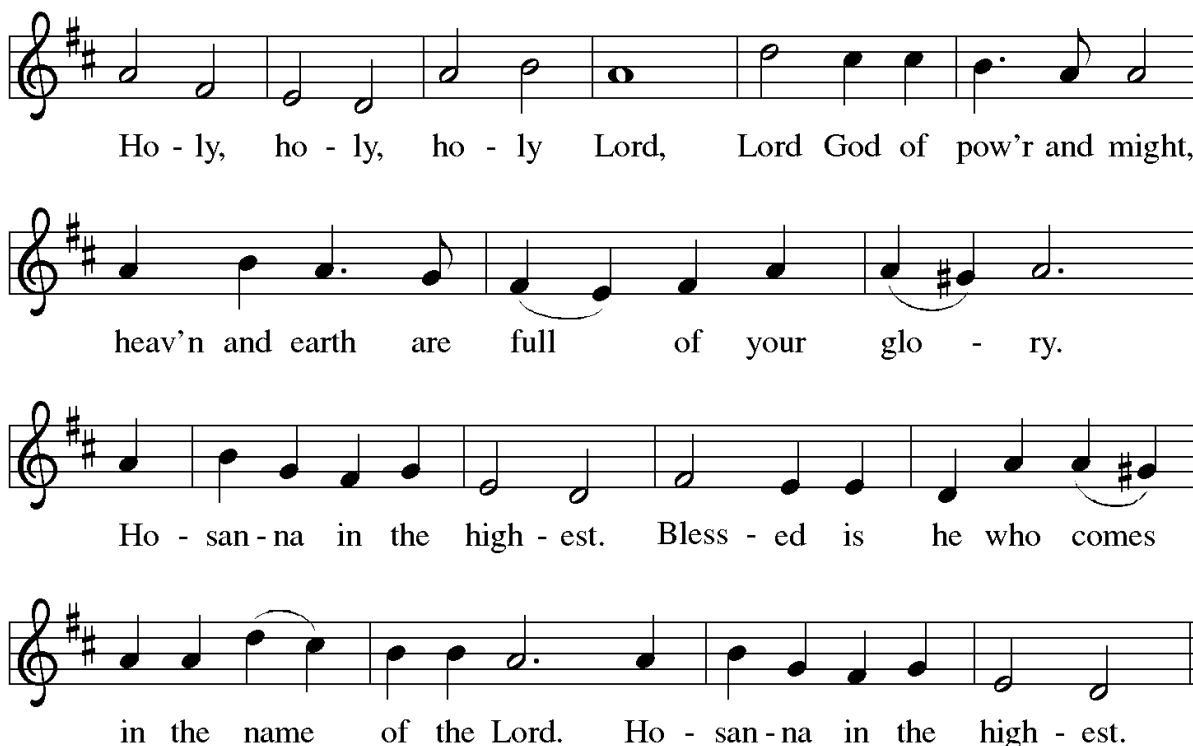
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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



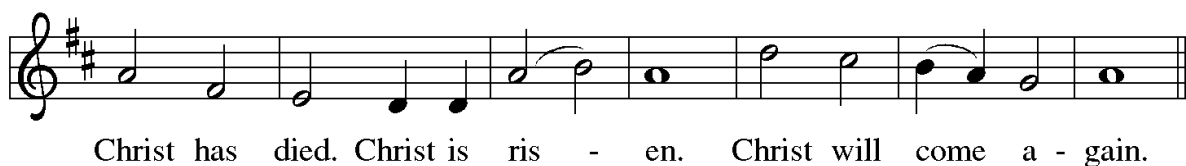
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

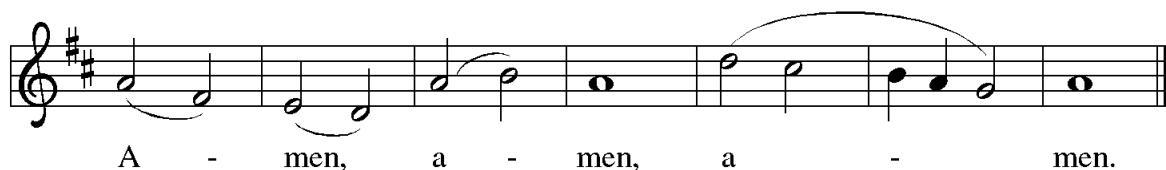
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

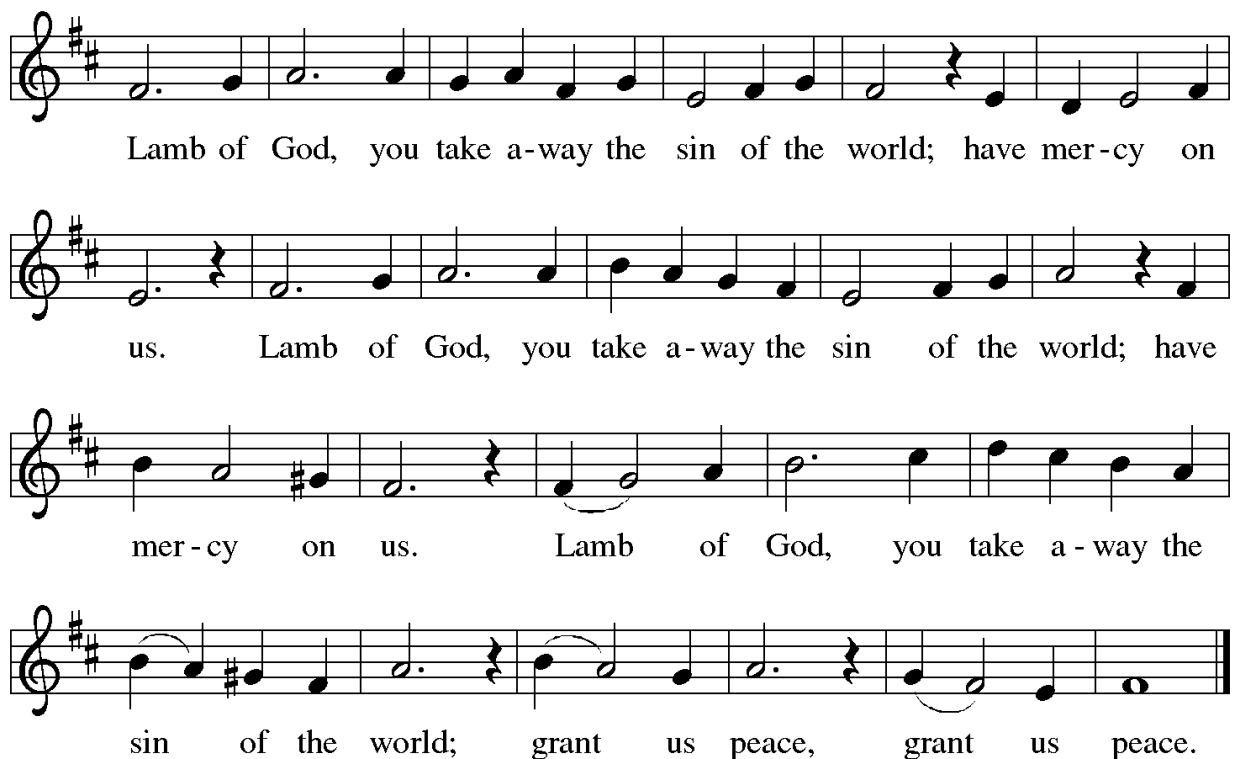
God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

‘It Came Upon a Midnight Clear’

ELW 282

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: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in
our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the
everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'Go Tell It on the Mountain'

ELW 290

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

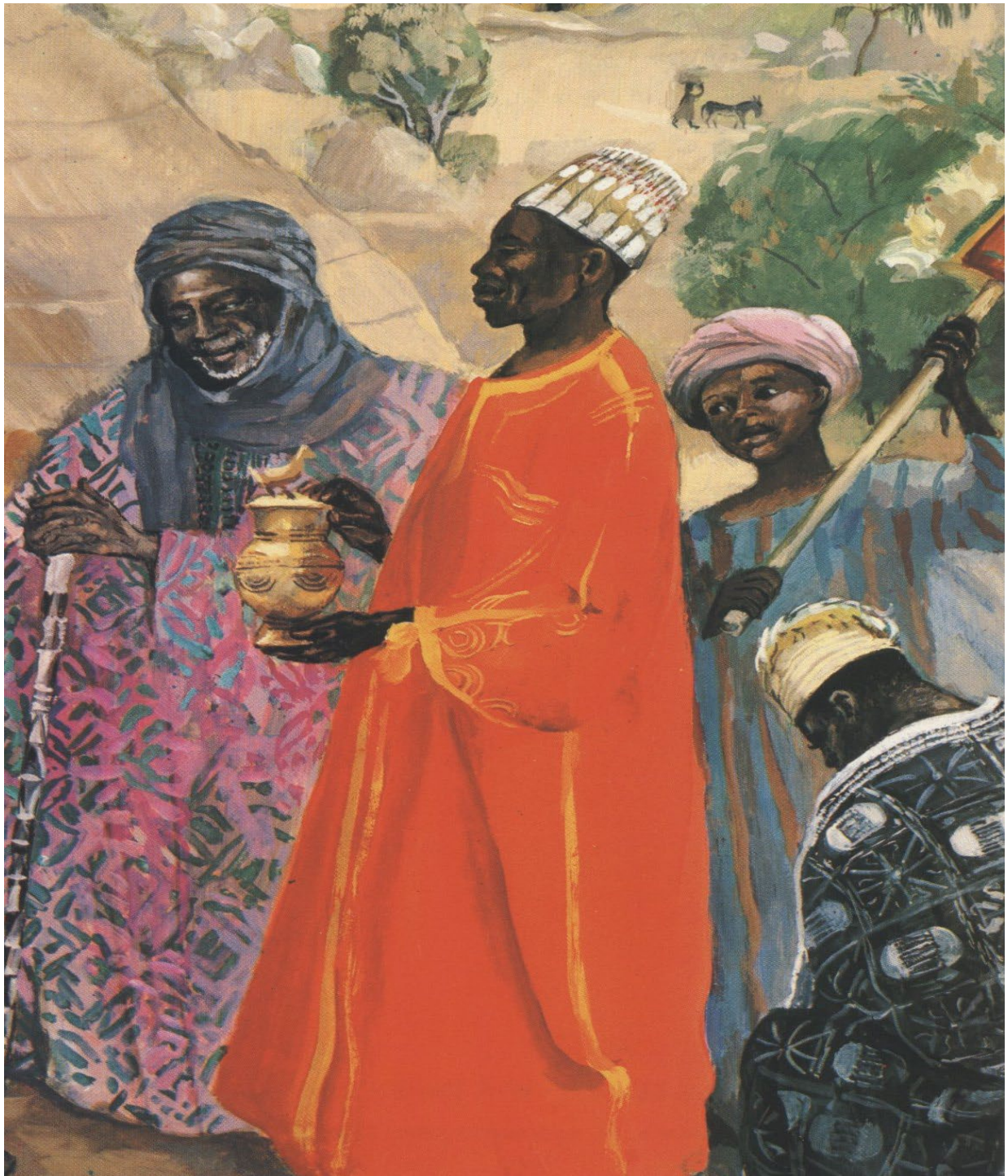
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Gerrie Blackwelder
Preacher.....Pastor Lori Carter
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

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



Title: The Three Wise Men. Date: 1973. Artist: JESUS MAFA.

Epiphany of Our Lord January 4, 2026 | 11:00 am



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Ring Out, Wild Bells

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson
1809–1892*

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Buck-A-Meal - Every one-dollar bill placed in the offering boxes this morning goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Kindergarten Registration – Now Open – Offering Half-Day and Afterschool Programs. For more information, email: kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org or call (704) 636-4404.

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Altar Flowers—Given to the Glory of God and in memory of Anne Myers Steele by her family.



*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
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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,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

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God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

'As with Gladness'

ELW 302

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah, the 60th chapter.

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies’

ELW 553

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, 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**

PRAYER AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Stanza 1) Solo Stanza 2) Choir Stanza 3) Choir



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
where a voice for - got - ten cries, “Pre - pare the way!”
guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion’s sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

Refrain) Congregation



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



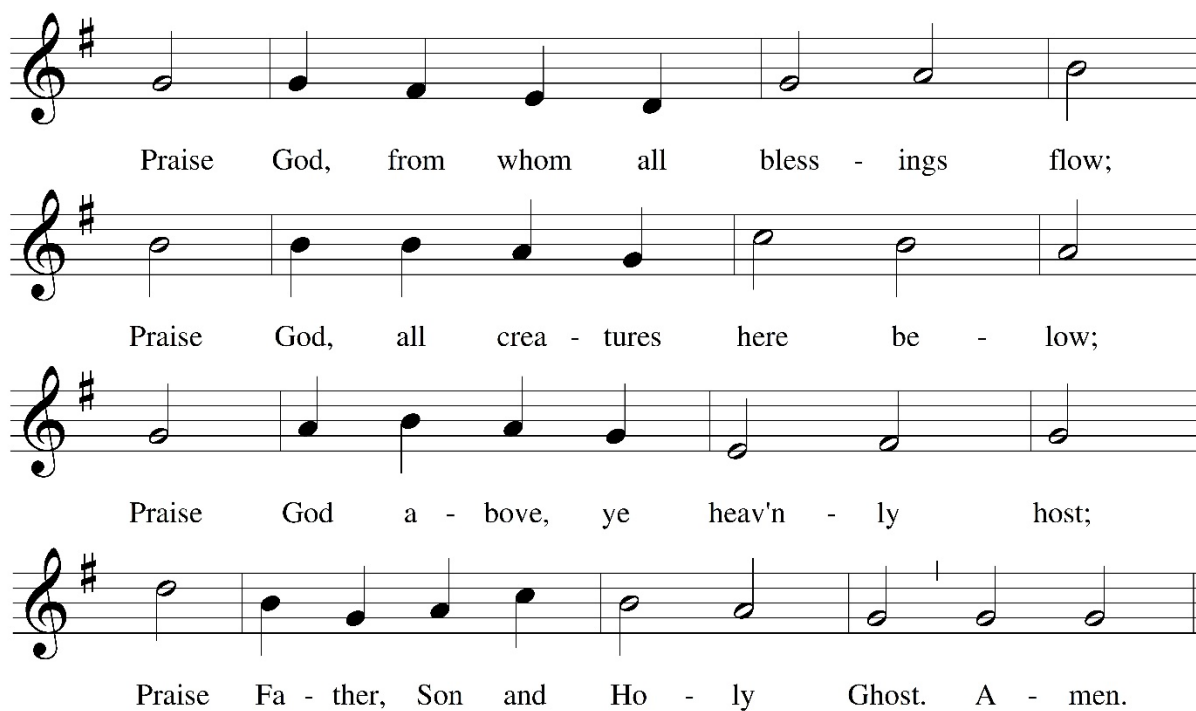
prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

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: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **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.

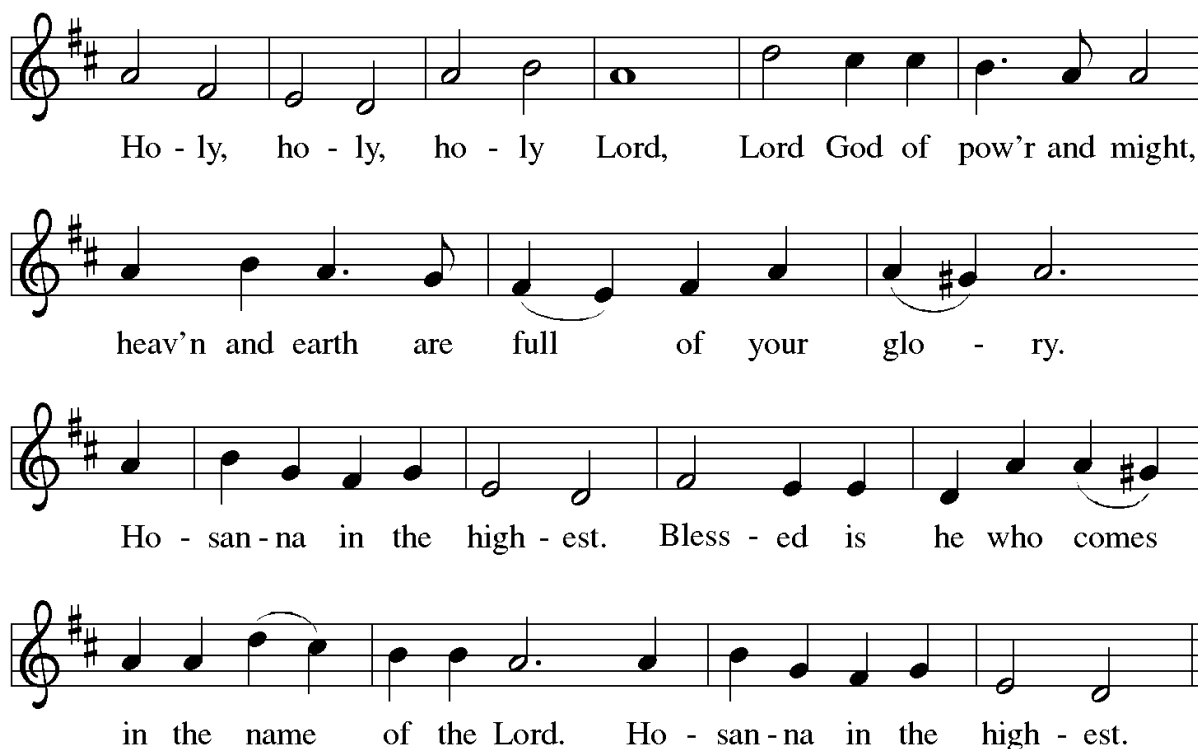
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



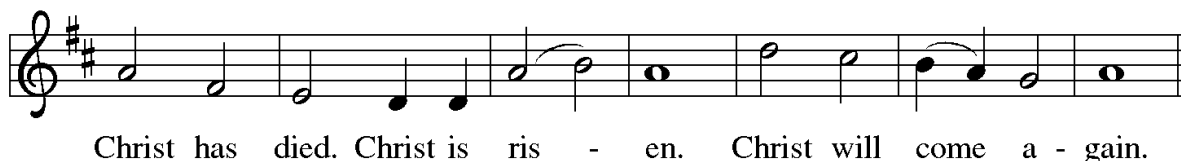
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:



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

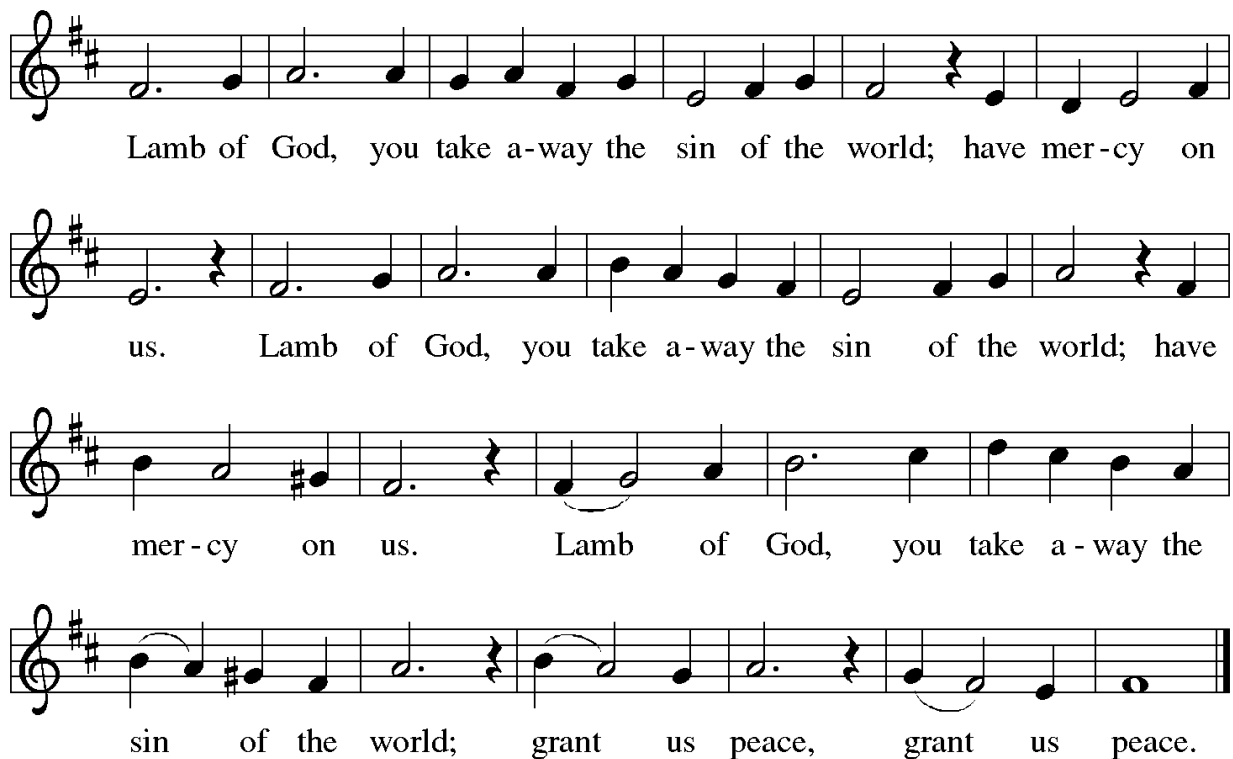
God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at the altar, following the usher's guidance. At the altar, bread is served (gluten-free by request), followed by wine (grape juice by request). 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’
Emmett Stephenson

Traditional Carol

COMMUNION HYMN

‘The First Noel’

ELW 300

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: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in
our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the
everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**



BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'What Star Is This'

HFW 1345



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
2 True spake the proph - et from a - far who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
5 To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, to Christ, re -



than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly



forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
pow'r be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Dennis Rogers
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Jackson Williams and Elijah Young
Crucifer.....Ashton Williams
Banner Bearer.....Balian Witt

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins...ext. 2190
Associate Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
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 Wymbbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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