



Title: Baptism of Jesus. Date: 1987. Artist: Lorenzo Scott.

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026 | 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!

“Thank You!” from our Staff – We would like to thank all the folks who so graciously provided financial contributions, snacks and goodies to help get us through another Christmas season! We are blessed and honored to serve the family of St. John's throughout the year!

Kindergarten Registration is Open – Offering Half-Day, Pre-K and Kindergarten, and in addition, wrap around care for Pre-K and Kindergarten. For details and to register, email: kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org or call (704) 636-4404. Our Kindergarten is **seeking Substitute Assistant Teachers**, preferably with experience in early childhood education.

Wednesday Nights – Dinner & Discipleship – Begins this **Wed., Jan. 14 at 5:30 pm**, through Mar. 25. Please visit our website for the menu at stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays. Click the QR code here to purchase your Season Pass. Adult programming begins at 6:15 pm.



Church Office – Will be **closed Mon., Jan. 19**, in observance of the **Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday**.

Women's Ministry – Game Night – Thurs., Jan. 22, 6-8 pm in Ritchie Hall. Games will be provided. Bring a snack to share! We will be collecting donations for blankets for the Feb. meeting.

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!

St. John's Apparel – We have new items available for winter. **On sale now through Jan. 31**. Proceeds will benefit our Outreach Ministry Funds. Click the QR code here or online to view images and place your order.



Men's Ministry Beach Retreat Weekend – Register by Feb. 15 via QR code here or contact Eric Brady with any questions (704) 213-7164. The Retreat dates are April 24-26.



LYO Assembly 2026 – St. John's Youth – **Feb. 27-Mar. 1** – Scan QR code to visit the link and register. Financial assistance is available. Contact James@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Benevolent Foundation Scholarship and Endowment Grant Applications – are Now Open and Due by March 1 at 5 pm. Click the QR code here to apply. Please visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org/benevolent-foundation/ for more information.



Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara Baker Sims and Joe Ivan Sims by their family.



*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, the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✠ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

'Song of Thankfulness and Praise'

ELW 310

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 our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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

Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 42nd chapter.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

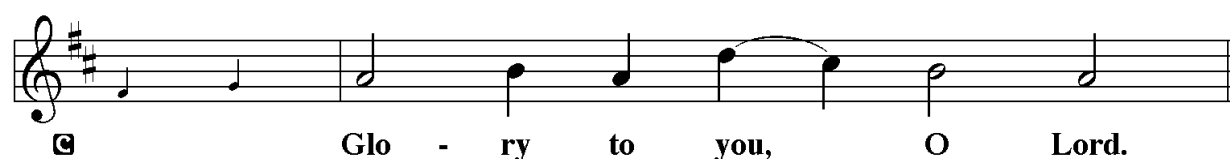
We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

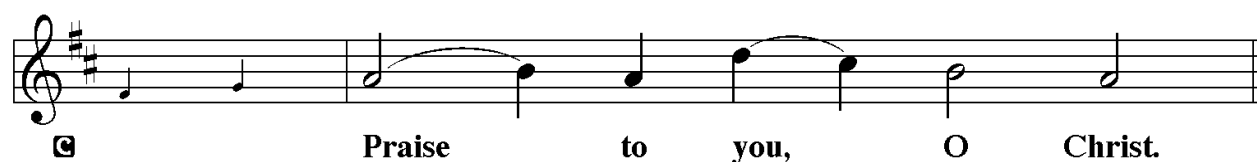


The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.



¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

REFLECTION SONG

Baptismal family gathers at the font.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Theodore John Sack

Child of Kevin and Irene Sack

Godparents: Douglas Hernandez and Emily Mitchell

PRESENTATION

People of God, do you promise to support Theodore.
and pray for him in his 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. Theodore 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 Theodore's forehead, a symbol that seals him in relationship with Christ.

Gift of Light. Theodore is welcomed into the Family of God. A candle (the light of Christ) is presented to him 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 Theodore 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*

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Be seated.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

'Down Galilee's Slow Roadways'

Sylvia Dunstan, text

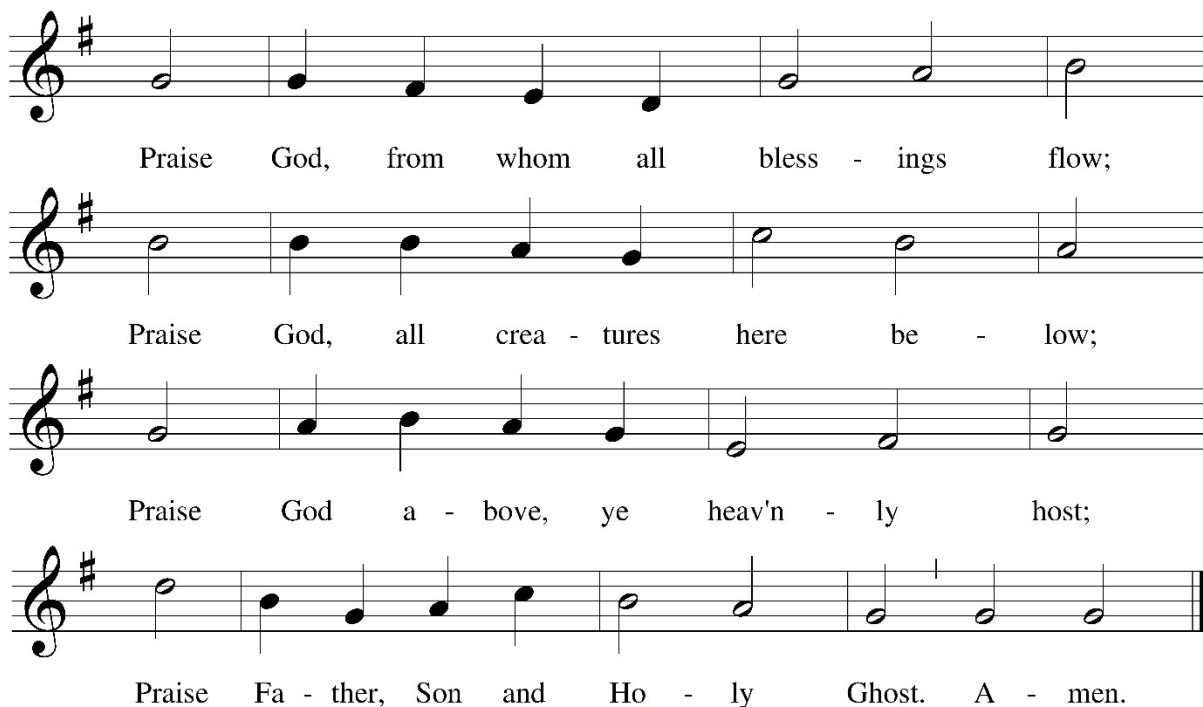
*Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.*

*Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."*

*We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."*

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 majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

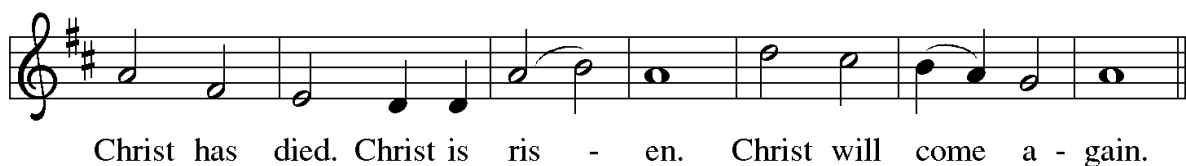
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

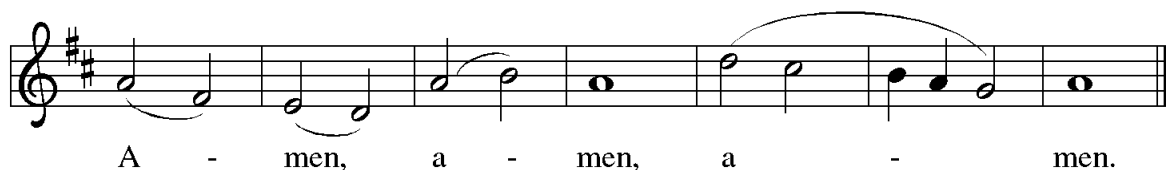
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see. **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

'Let All Things Now Living'

**Janie Rollins
arr. John Helgen**

COMMUNION HYMN

'Wash, O God'

ELW 445

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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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



BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

‘The Spirit Sends Us Forth’

ELW 551

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....David Hord
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Caleb Rathbun and CJ Sifford
Crucifer.....Balian Witt
Banner Bearer.....Brenden Sifford

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



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