



Title: John the Baptist. Author: Unknown. Date: 1465.

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026, 11:00am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Installation of our newly elected leadership—

Newly elected Council members: *George Almond, Elaine Holden, Tom Loeblein, Brent Patterson and Tammy Safrit (3-year-term)*

Youth representatives: *Landen Ryerson and Jillian Towns (1-year-term)*

Council officers: *Brad Trick, Pres.; Tom Loeblein; V-P; Rosemary Wood, Secretary; Carol Church, At-Large Member to Executive Committee; Cory Gebhardt, Treasurer; Stan Jordan, Financial Secretary; Jeanie Moore, Personnel Secretary.*

Benevolent Foundation: *Mark Lewis (5-year-term)*

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller – Pastor Dan will be on paternity leave starting this Sunday and will return on Feb. 15. Please keep Pastor Dan and family in your prayers as they welcome their newborn baby. Pastors James, Lori and Spence are available to handle any pastoral needs during this time.

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: kinder@stjohns-salisbury.org or call (704) 636-4404. Our Kindergarten is **seeking Substitute Assistant Teachers**, preferably with experience in early childhood education.

Church Office – Closed tomorrow, Jan. 19, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Wednesday Nights – Dinner & Discipleship – Weds., at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall , 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.



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 Fund. 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 with thanks as we celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary, by Gary and Scott Rhodes.



*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.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross \dagger , the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger 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 \dagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

'Arise, Your Light Has Come'

ELW 314

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A -rise, your light has come! The moun-tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

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

Assisting minister



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

All



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: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.*

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

WORD

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



READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah, the 49th chapter.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." ⁵

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42

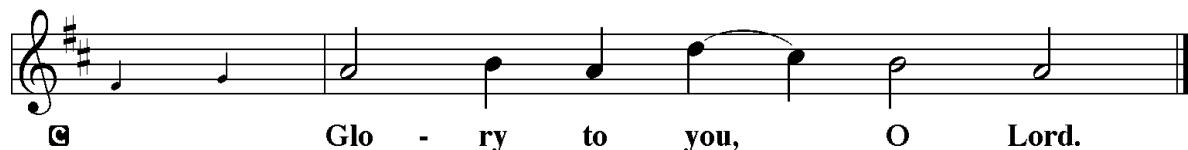


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

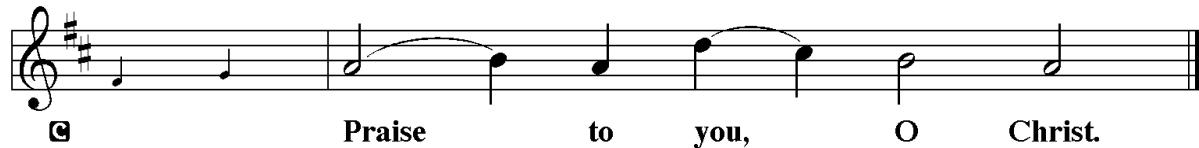


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Tim Smith,
Bishop Emeritus of the NC SYNOD

We rise.

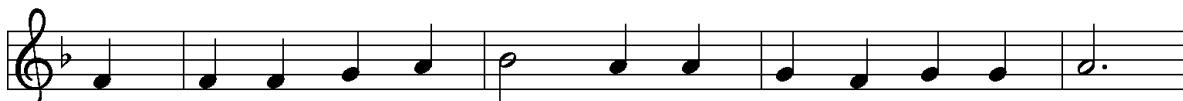
HYMN OF THE DAY

'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'

ELW 311



1 Hail to the Lord's anoint - ed, great Da - vid's great-er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - - ui - ty.
pre - cious in - - your - sight.
hill to val - - ley - flow.
king - dom with - - out - end.

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 \dagger of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

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

‘The Lamb’

by Gerald P. Coleman

*The Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!*

*Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!*

*The Lamb, one perfect final offering.
The Lamb, let earth join heaven his praise to sing.*

*The Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill.
So still, his will on our behalf the Law to fill.*

*He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, he gives me his own righteousness.*

*He rose, my heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong 'till every heart to him belong.*

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, 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:

A musical score for a three-part setting. The top part has a soprano vocal line, the middle part has an alto vocal line, and the bottom part has a bass vocal line. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

A musical score for a three-part setting. The top part has a soprano vocal line, the middle part has an alto vocal line, and the bottom part has a bass vocal line. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

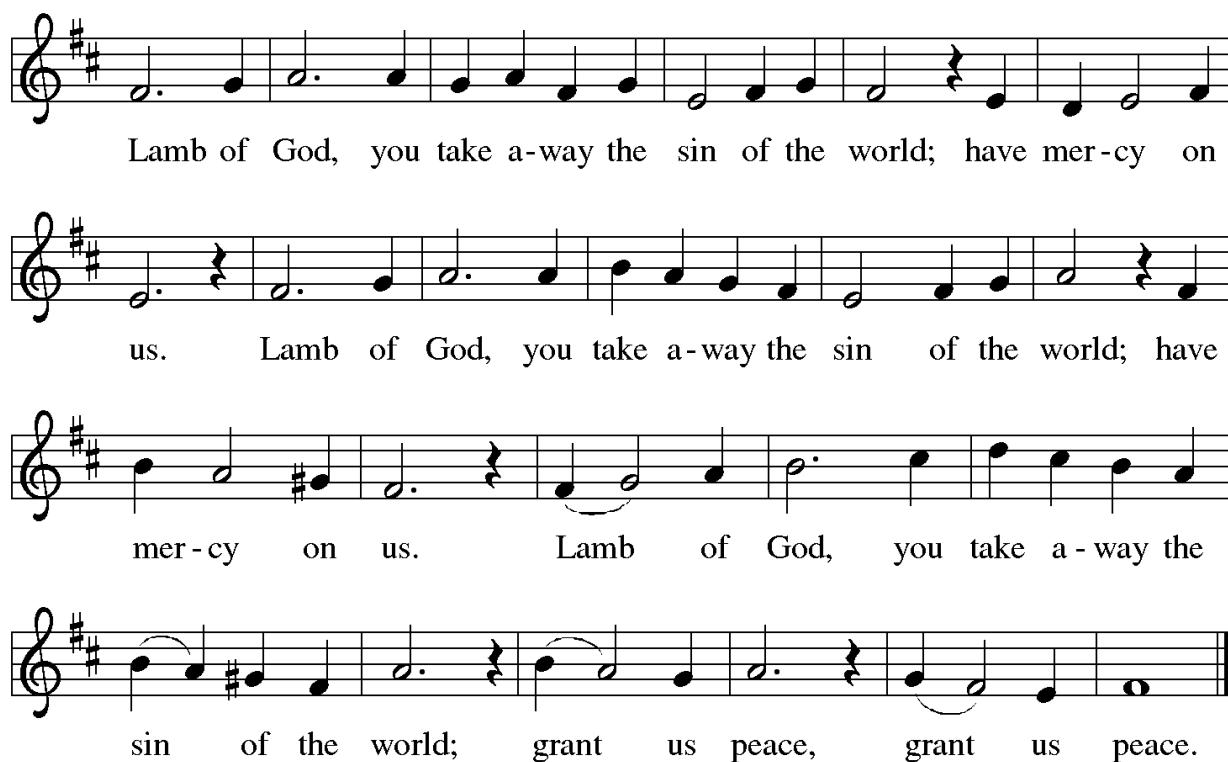
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see. **Thanks be to God.**

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion 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

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song'
Setting, Sherri Hansen*

Lea Anne Thomas

COMMUNION HYMN

'Christ, Be Our Light'

ELW 715

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

'You Servants of God'

ELW 825

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....	Gretchen Witt
Reader.....	Mary Willis Page
Liturgist.....	Pastor Lori Carter
Preacher and Presider.....	The Rev. Dr. Tim Smith <i>Bishop Emeritus of the NC Synod</i>

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....	Elijah Young and Anson Ward
Crucifer.....	Balian Witt
Banner Bearer.....	Noah Young

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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.*