



Title: Jesus Teaching. Artist: Maurye Gottlieb. Date: 1878–79.

Second Sunday in Lent
Open My Hands, Lord
March 1, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

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.

Catawba Singers in Concert – *“How Can I Keep from Singing?”* - **Today at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.** St. John's will host the Catawba Singers in their first Spring Concert. The 60-voice choir is under the direction of Dr. Phillip E. Burgess, Dean of the Shuford School of Performing Arts at Catawba College. The choir will be accompanied by Ms. Susan Trivette as well as various instrumentalists and the St. John's Chancel Choir. The concert is free and open to the public.

Women's Ministry - Family Movie Night – **Tues., Mar. 3,** *“I Can Only Imagine 2”*. Choose from two Showtimes at Tinseltown Theatre in Salisbury: 1:50 pm (hosted by Sally Taylor) and 6:20 pm (hosted by Rosalind Hines). Contact Rosalind at rhines509@gmail.com with any questions.

St. John's Book Club Start Up - Interest Meeting on **Wed., Mar. 4 from 5:30-6 pm in the Goodman Dining Room.** All are invited to this drop-in introductory planning session, where we will discuss meeting times, places, reading topics/preferences, etc. Our hosts are Gary Rhodes and Gerrie Blackwelder. If you are unable to attend and would like to provide some input, please contact Gerrie at (704) 798-1849.

“Open My Life, Lord” – Wednesday Lenten Services, (Sanctuary or Online). **Mar. 4, at 6:30 pm** - Guest Organist Dr. Philip Burgess; Mar. 11, Guest Pianist Dr. Lawrence Quinnett; Mar. 18, St. John's Musicians; Mar. 25, Holden Evening Prayer.

Men's Ministry at Work – **Mar. 14, 8:30 am** in Ritchie Hall, where breakfast will be provided for all Volunteers. Scan QR code below to sign up. Also, if you have a simple home project or yard work you need help with, Scan the Project Requests QR code below to provide the information or call the church office.



Project Request



Sign up to Volunteer

Easter Lilies, Palms and Flowers — Ordering **deadline is Mar. 20.** Be part of the beautiful tradition at St. John's as we decorate our worship spaces for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. You may place an order in honor or memory of your loved ones by scanning the QR code here or by completing a paper form located in the narthex and in all our literature racks.



St. John's Kindergarten – “80 Years of Loving, Learning, and Leading” Fundraiser- Heading into its 80th year (2026-2027) the St. John's Kindergarten has discerned the need to open a second pre-Kindergarten classroom. Join us for a dinner and program on **Mar. 21 from 4:30-7:00 pm in Ritchie Hall** to learn more about this vision for the future and how you can support us as we grow. We will also have artwork and performances from current SJ Kindergarten students and testimonials from past students. Cost for the dinner is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 12. Register at the QR code here, or by calling the church office. **RSVP deadline is March 10.**



St. John's Library – Our library will be temporarily closed while the newly formed Library Committee spends time refreshing, renewing and energizing this space for members and the community. There will be a grand re-opening at a later date. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Rusher at kathyrusher@gmail.com.

Altar Flowers—will once again adorn our altar after the Lenten Season concludes on Easter Sunday. You may scan the QR code here or visit our website, to reserve flowers for various available dates.





*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

‘Meditation for Trumpet and Organ’
Desmond Harrell, trumpet

by Paul F. Page

‘May You Always Have a Song’
Kingdom Kids

by Jay Althouse

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, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses (*silence is kept for reflection*).

Lord of all life,

**when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,
open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.**

Lord of all life,

**when we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,
open our hands to do your work in the world.**

Lord of all life,

**when we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,
open our ears, that all will know your love.**

Lord of all life,

**when we are hardened against our neighbor,
open our hearts and heal our resentment.**

Lord of all life,

**when we are closed to the grace you long to give us,
open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.**

God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, our lives have been transformed by the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are made new. **Amen.**



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

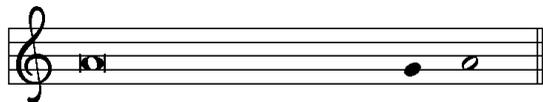


we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



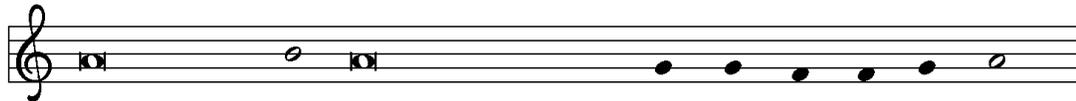
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Open our hands, Lord, to reach out to a world in need. May our arms enfold those who sorrow, our palms bear mercy and grace, and our fingers point to your love. In Jesus' name we pray. **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

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

A reading from Deuteronomy, the 15th chapter.

⁷“If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. ⁸You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. ⁹Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. ¹⁰Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. ¹¹Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:1-5

Lord, o - pen my eyes.

Lord, o - pen my hands.

O - pen my ears. O - pen my heart.

Lord, o - pen my life.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

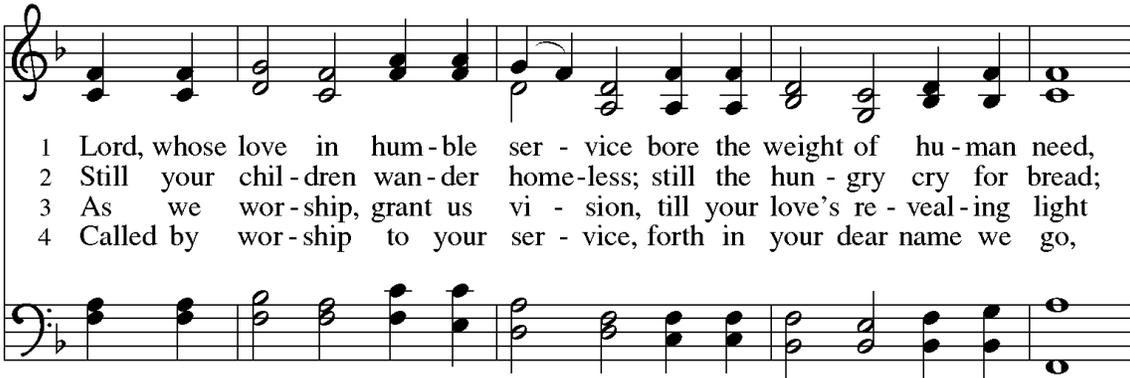
[Jesus] left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

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

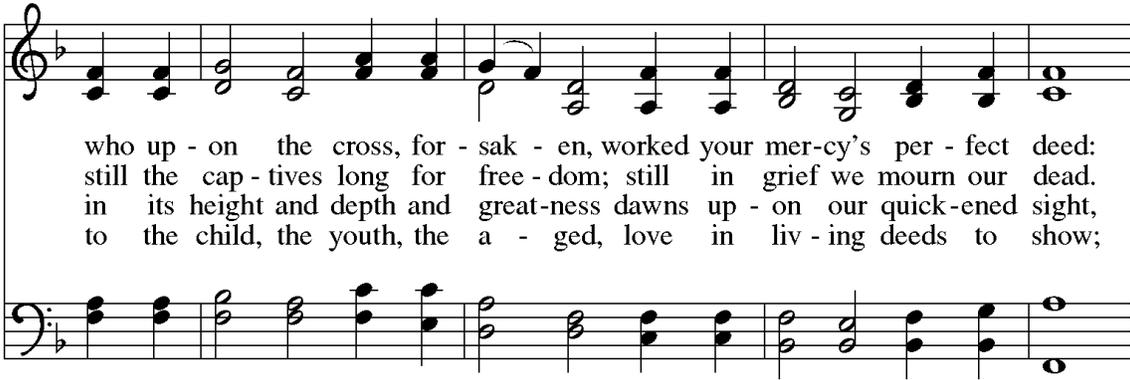
Be seated.

SERMON

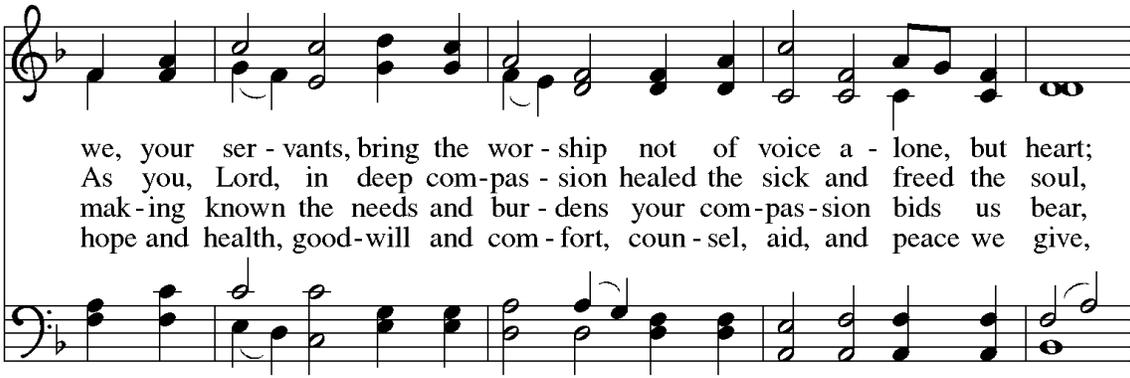
Pastor Dan Joyner Miller



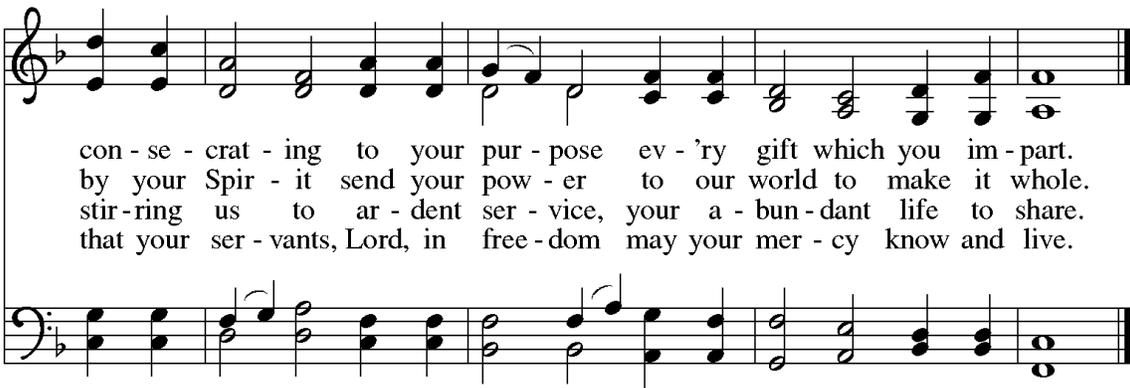
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

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**

PRAYERS 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 ANTHEM

'Hands of God'

Michael Austin Miller

*We gather around the water, the word, the wine, the wheat.
Repentant and forgiven, from bondage we are freed.
Singing songs of gladness, of mercy, grace, and love,
then we are sent from this place to be the hands of God.*

*Baptized in the water and nurtured by the word,
then fed at the table where bread and wine are served.
Blessed to be a blessing with strength to heed the call,
we are sent from this place to be the hands of God.*

*Hands of God, hands of faith, offering hope, offering grace.
Hands of blessing, hands of love; we are the hands, the hands of God.*

*From every land and nation, every tribe and every tongue,
united by the spirit, in Christ we join as one
with Saints who've gone before us, whose spirits still live on,
then we are sent from this place to be the hands of God.*

*If we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
the righteous One is by our side, the One of God's own choosing.*

*Hands of God (offering blessing), hands of faith (offering love),
offering hope (hands of God), offering grace (hands of faith),
Hands of blessing (hands of hope), hands of love (hands of grace)
we are the hands (we are the hands) the hands of God.*

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise father, son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let us pray: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

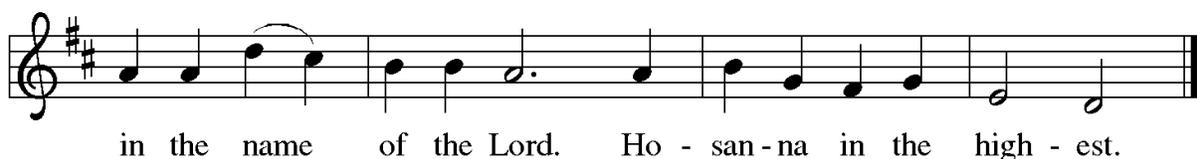
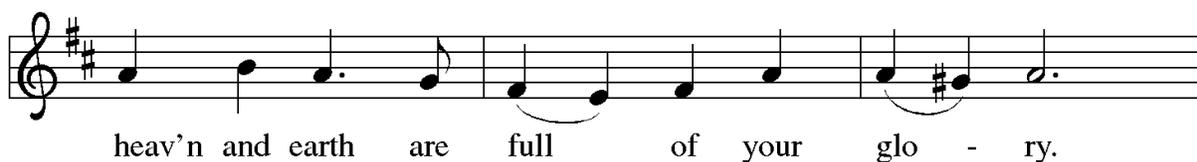
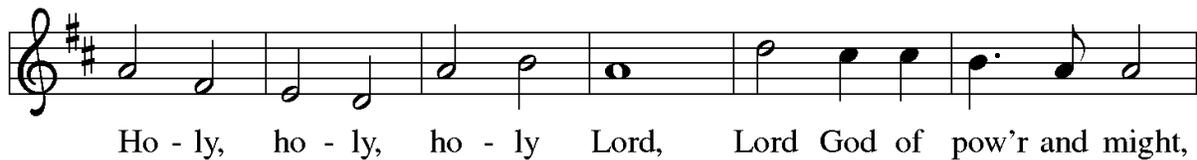
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. **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

‘In the Cross of Christ I Glory’
arr. John Carter and Mark Dorian

performer, Thom Hinson

COMMUNION HYMN

‘Will You Let Me’

ELW 659

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 of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens our life for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



BLESSING

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'God's Work, Our Hands'

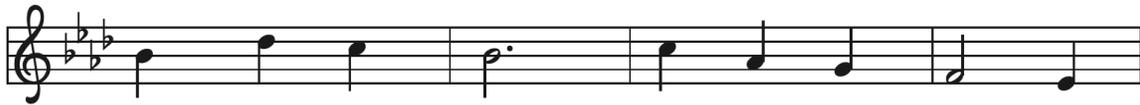
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1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

...continue...



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....Trixie Martin
 Reader.....Parker Hatchett
 Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
 Presider.....Pastor James Demmel
 Liturgist.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

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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.*