



*Title: Hallelujah. Artist: Mike Moyers. Date: 2013.*

Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026, 11:00 am

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*St. John's Lutheran Church*

*Salisbury, North Carolina*

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

*We're so glad God has brought you here!*

## Holy Week Schedule—

- **Apr. 2** (Maundy Thursday) **7 pm** (Sanctuary and Online).
- **Apr. 3** (Good Fri.) **12:15 pm** (Chapel) **and 7 pm** (Sanctuary and Online).
- **Apr. 5** (Easter) **6:30 am**, Sunrise Service at the Bell Tower Green;
  - **8:30 -11 am**, Easter Breakfast in Ritchie Hall;
  - Easter Sunday services **9:27** (Faith Center and online) **and**
  - **11 am** (Sanctuary and Online).

**Decorating Help Needed for Easter—Sat., Apr. 4 from 9 am—3 pm.** The Decorating Team is looking for volunteers to help decorate our Sanctuary, Faith Center and Peeler Hall with flowers for Easter. To volunteer, please contact Mindy Hochuli (malindahochuli@gmail.com) or Marian Hough Schouweiler (mlhough17@gmail.com).

**Easter Breakfast—Sun., Apr. 5, 8:30 am—10:30 am in Ritchie Hall.**

**St. John's Book Club – Wed., Apr. 8 at 10 am in Room 216** (Education Wing). We will read “Cloud Cuckoo Land”. The discussion will be led by Sandra Sullivan.

**Senior Seasons Academy Sermon Series – “Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit”** - Our Guest Scholar will be Dr. Matthew L. Skinner, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. Join us for the Kick-off weekend on Sat. **Apr. 11** where we will begin with **dinner at 5:30 pm** followed by a **lecture and discussion at 6 pm in Ritchie Hall**. In addition, Dr. Skinner will be preaching at both services on **Sun. Apr. 12**. The Sermon Series dates are **Apr. 14, 21 and 28, 9:30 am – 3 pm in Ritchie Hall**. Dr. Skinner will draw our attention to what he calls the “saints around the edges”. After lunch, we will board the St. John's bus and be led by member and historian, Dr. Gary Freeze as we visit some of the oldest churches in Rowan County connecting our story with the faithful witness of those who have gone before us.

**Adult Discipleship – “The Vanishing Church”** – Beginning on **Apr. 17 through May 15** (5 Fridays) **from 12 – 1 pm in Room 213**. Join us for a thoughtful conversation facilitated by Trevor Eppheimer, Academic Dean at Hood Theological Seminary. Bring your own lunch and beverage.



**St. John's Men's Chorus** will present a spring program titled “Voices Raised” on **Sun., May 17 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary**. Under the co-direction of Jason Harwood and Spence Robertson, the concert will feature the St. John's Chancel Choir, Women's Ensemble, and Handbell Ensemble, accompanied by Janie Rollins and guest musicians. A freewill offering will be received to benefit a local charitable organization, which will be announced next month.

**VBS—ages 3 through CURRENT 5th grade—Join us on Jun. 8-12 from 9 am—12:15 pm** as we explore the Nature of God through “Rainforest Falls”. Register by scanning the QR code here. Sign up to VOLUNTEER today by emailing [Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org).



**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

**'Palm Sunday Processional'**  
**arr. Dan Edwards**

**Luther Ringers**

*Remain seated.*

## OPENING SENTENCE

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

**'Hosanna! Blessed Is He'**  
**by Michael Bedford**

**Kingdom Kids**

*Hosanna! Blessed is he, Hosanna! Blessed is he.  
Who comes, who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Carry him now little donkey, through the crowded street;  
Carry him as the people lay palm branches at his feet.  
Carry him now little donkey, carry God's own Son;  
Carry him gently, donkey, he is the Holy One.*

*We rise.*

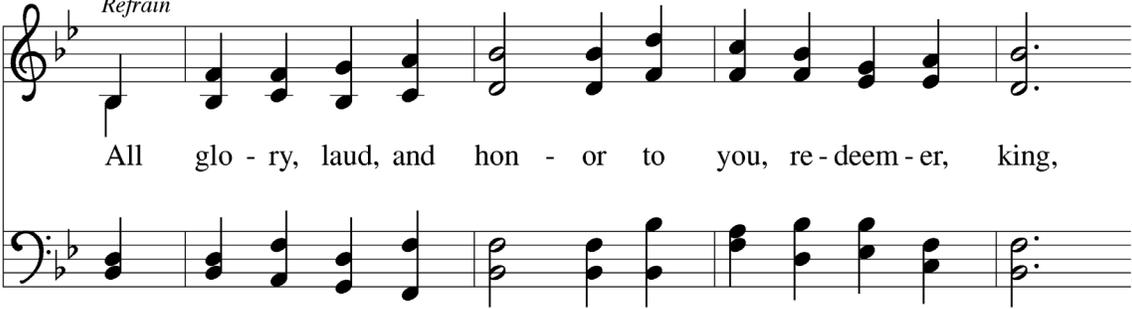
## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Let us pray:* We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*We wave our palm branches during the refrain.*

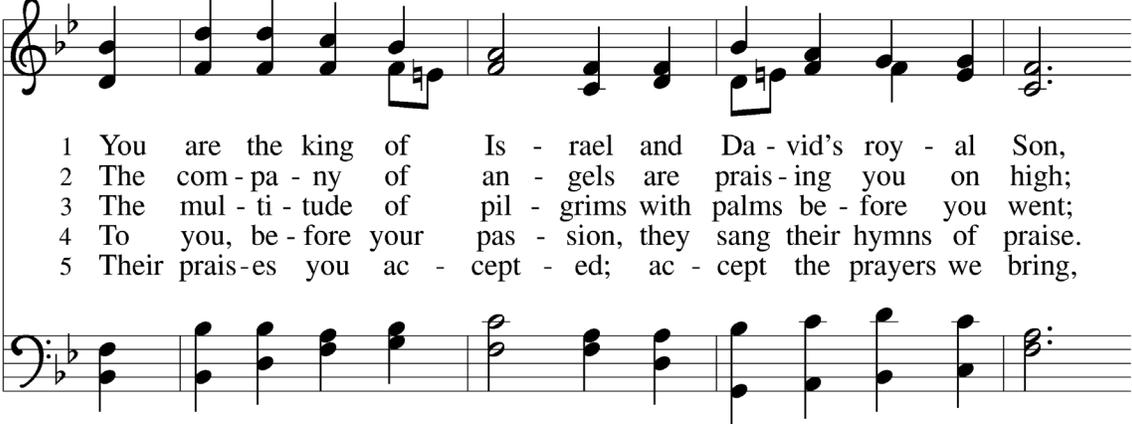
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

## GREETING AND PRAYER

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.**

*Let us pray:* Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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.*

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## WORD

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



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## READING

**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

Let us read responsively Psalm 118.

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> **The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> **This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,

and he has given us light.

**Bind the festal procession with branches,**

**up to the horns of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God; I will extol you.

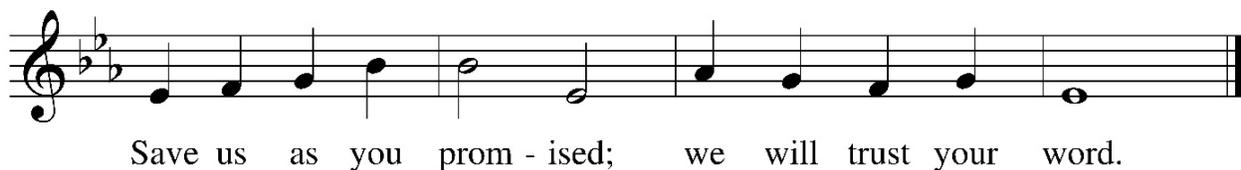
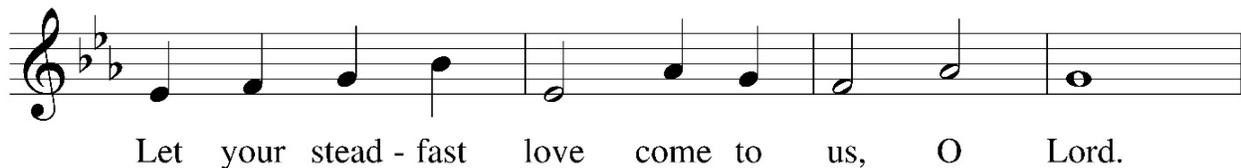
<sup>29</sup> **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,**

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

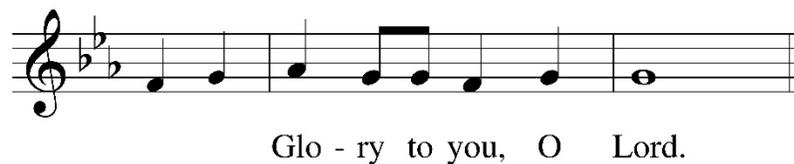
*We rise.*

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:1-11



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup>“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds

that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor James Demmel**

*Remain seated.*

**ANTHEM**

**‘Rejoice and Sing, “Hosanna to the King!”**

**by Lloyd Larson**

*Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!*

*Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna to the King of kings!  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
With loudest praise, rejoice and sing,  
“Hosanna to the King!”*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart from earthly use.  
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,  
adorned with prayer, God’s love and joy.*

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Redeemer, come, we open wide  
our hearts to Thee; come, and abide.  
Your inner presence let us feel;  
your grace and love in us reveal.*

*We rise.*

## **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.**

*Share the 'peace' of Christ with one another.*  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Dr. Norman Sloop, Soloist

Stanza 1) Soloist

Stanza 2) Women

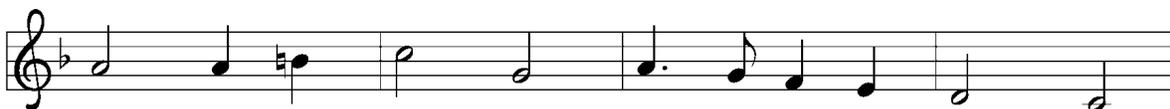
Stanza 3) Men

Stanza 4) Choir

Stanza 5-6) All



1 There in God’s gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, “Our Sav - ior!”  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f’ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing.”

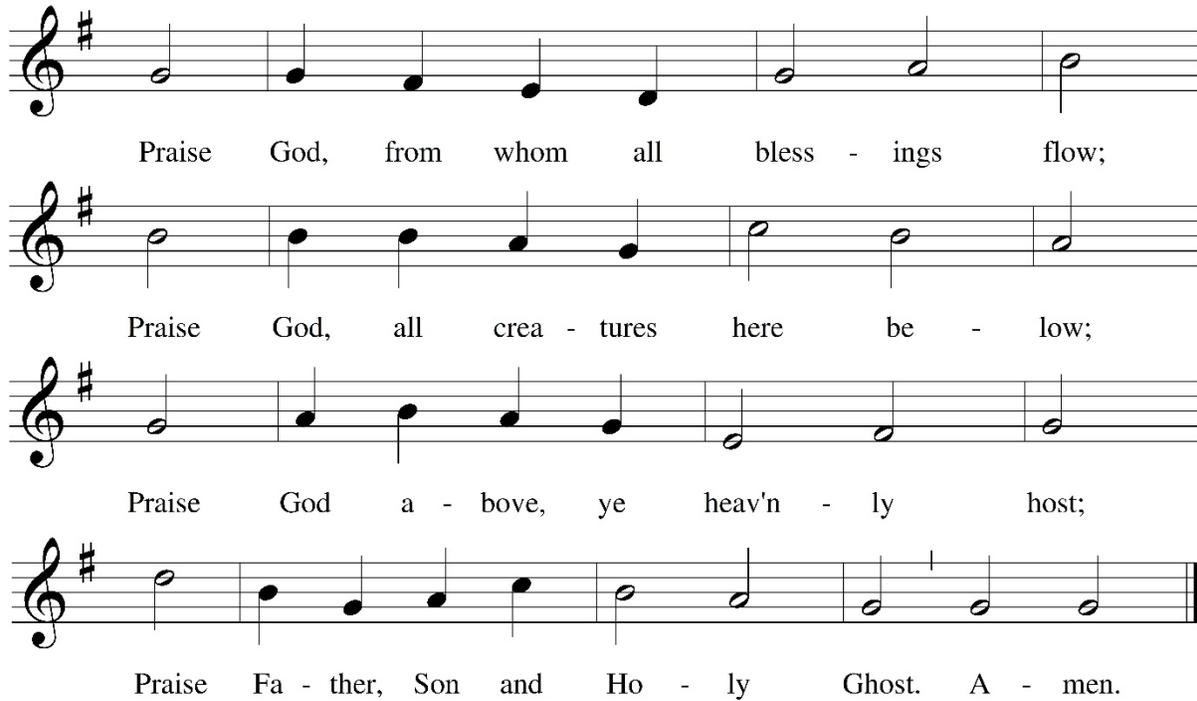
5 This is my ending  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav’n is singing,  
“Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!”  
Amen! My Master!

*We rise.*

## RESPONSE AND PRAYER

## OLD HUNDREDTH



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:* O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

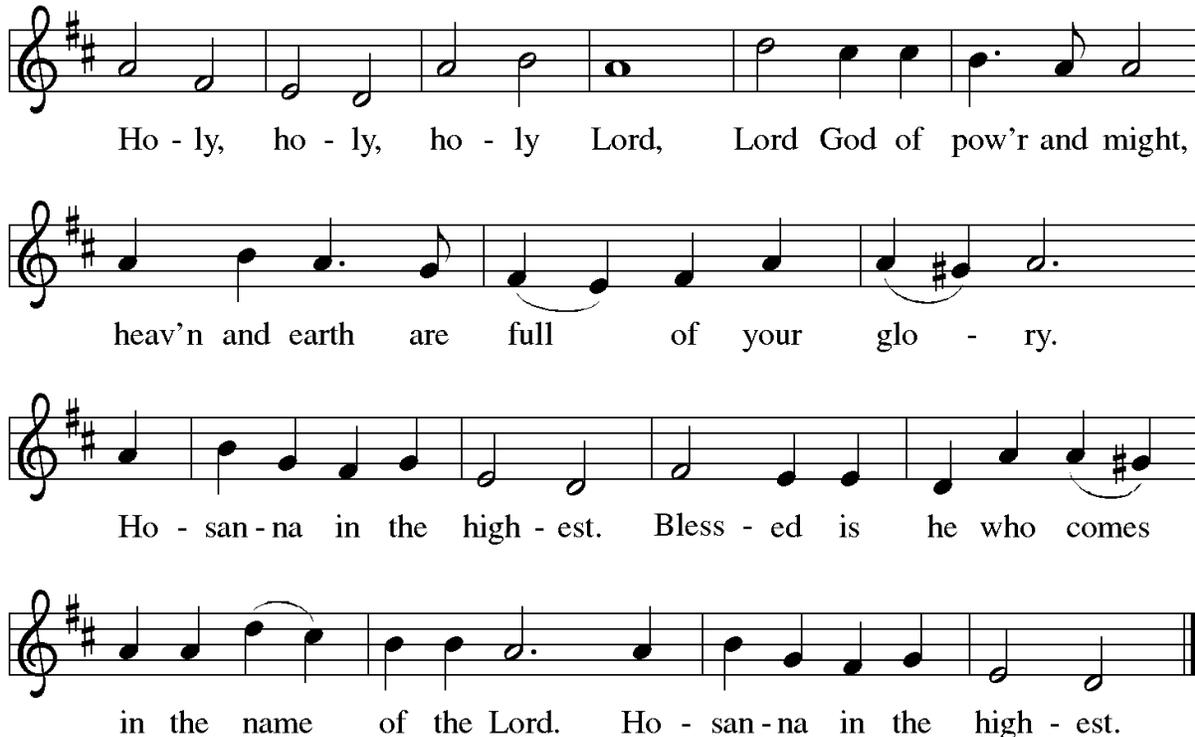
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in humility and peace, and was greeted with palms and shouts of Hosanna. Yet he came to accomplish the mystery of our salvation, to suffer, to die, and to rise again for the life of the world. And so, 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

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of all creation. You formed the heavens and the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned from your ways, you did not abandon us to death.

In your great mercy you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in humility and peace, greeted with palms and shouts of Hosanna, yet willingly walked the path of suffering and the cross for the salvation of the world.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks, he 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 his coming among us, his suffering, death, and glorious resurrection,  
**we await the day when he shall come again in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that we who receive the body and blood of Christ may be strengthened in faith, united in love, and follow our Lord on the way of the cross until we feast with him in his everlasting kingdom.

Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, 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 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

‘How Beautiful’  
Piano and Organ Duet

by Twila Paris  
arr. Mary McDonald

## COMMUNION HYMN

‘Lamb of God’

ELW 336

*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 us 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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## 'Christ Is the Life'

OBS 52



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark - ness of the womb.  
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin - dling for the pyre.  
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

## DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Mitch Siegel  
Preacher.....Pastor James Demmel  
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller  
Liturgist.....Pastor James Demmel

## ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

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

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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 Care .....Lori Carter...ext. 2050  
Pastor for Youth and Outreach .....James Demmel...ext. 2040

## Worship and Music Ministry

Pastor for Worship and the Arts.....Spence Robertson...ext. 2080  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins...ext. 2190  
Associate Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins  
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.*