



*Artist: Edwin Long (1829-1891). Title: Dorcas. Date: 1873-1877.*

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 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!*

**Serenity Sisters—Today at 5 pm.** Contact: [Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org) to join or details.

**Bibles and Brew - Men's Ministry - Apr. 28 at 6 pm.** Join us at New Sarum Brewing, 109 N. Lee Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

**Book Discussion – “Christ in the Rubble”-** (4 weeks remaining of this 6-wk series) Join us in person or via Zoom on **Tues., Apr. 28 at 7 pm in Room 218** (Education Wing). Written by Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, former pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, this book explains the Israel/Gaza war from both an insider as well as a Christian perspective. Contact Michael Connor at [mjconnor1982@gmail.com](mailto:mjconnor1982@gmail.com) or (734) 255-7230, with any questions.

**Worship Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner – Sun., May 3 at 6 pm in Ritchie Hall.** We look forward to celebrating and thanking those who share their time and talents to help make worship services meaningful at St. John's. You will receive an invitation. Please RSVP by scanning the QR Code on the invitation, or by calling the church office.

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

**Low Country Boil –** Hosted by St. John's Men's Ministry. All are welcome! - **Fri., May 15, 6-8 pm at St. John's Retreat Property**, located at 220 Mockingbird Lane, Salisbury, NC 28146. RSVP by scanning QR code here or calling the church office **by May 13.**



**Graduation Sunday – Sun., May 17 -** Join us for a special worship where will recognize our 2026 Benevolent Foundation Scholarship recipients and celebrating our graduating high school seniors. If you have a high school senior to be recognized, please scan the QR code to sign them up.



**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).



VBS Registration



VBS Wish List

**Altar Flowers –** Given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage, yesterday, of Christopher and Lauren Derrick. Also, in honor of Perry and Carolyn Hood on their 63rd Anniversary (4/21), and Mark and Elizabeth Derrick on their 33rd Anniversary (4/17).

**Baptismal Font Flowers –** Given to the glory of God and in honor of Elizabeth Brady's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, by the families of Brad & Heather Brady, Eric & Ann Brady and Kristen & Travis Berry.



*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

**'Sing, Sing a Joyful Song'**  
J. Williams and J. Martin

Children's Choir

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

*We rise and face the cross.*

GATHERING HYMN

'God Is Here'

ELW 526



*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray:* Almighty and ever-living God, in the days of the apostles you poured out your Holy Spirit upon the Church, giving them boldness to proclaim your Word and gathering many into the fellowship of your Son: Grant us the same Spirit of power and grace, that, made alive in Christ, we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, serve one another in love, and walk in the way of your kingdom; through 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

**Acts 9:36-42**

A reading from Acts, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes,

and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

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

*We rise.*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Mark 12:41-44**

*Sing twice.*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Spence Robertson**

*We rise.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**‘The Servant Song’**

**ELW 659**

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

## PRAYERS AND PEACE

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

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

*Be seated.*

## OFFERING AND ANTHEM

## 'Every Day I Will Bless You'

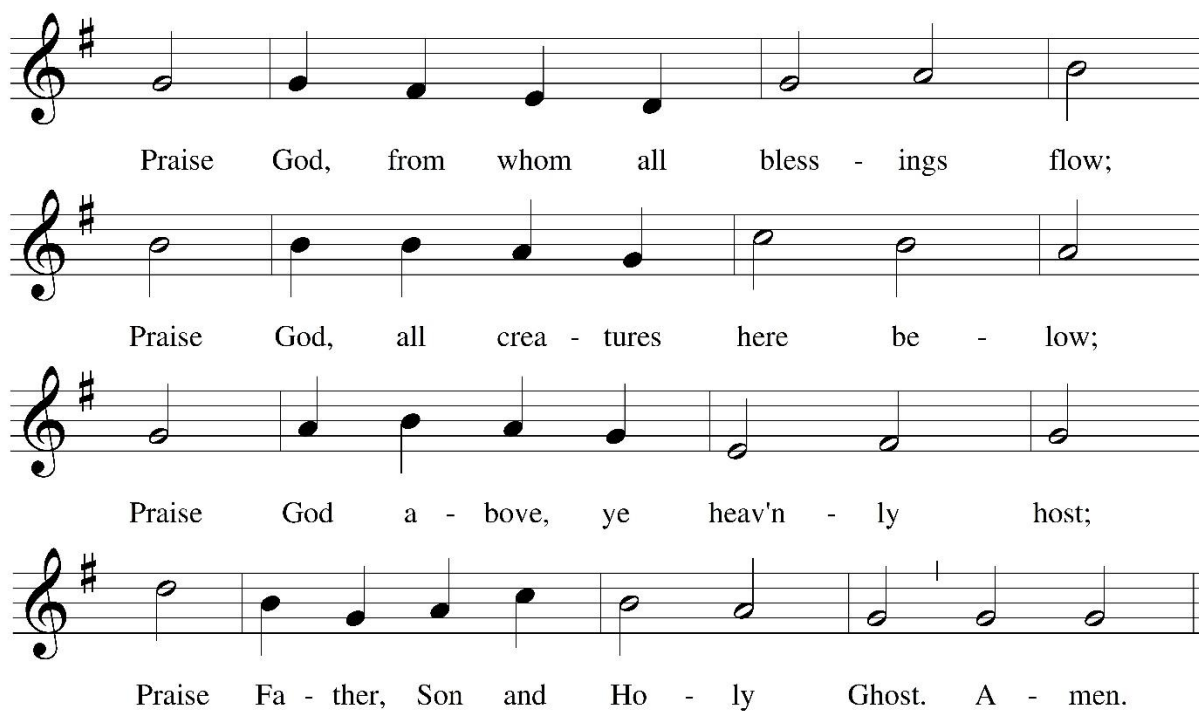
*by Raymond H. Haan*

*I will extol you, my God and King,  
and I will bless your name for ever.  
Every day I will bless you.*

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.  
One generation shall praise your works to another,  
and declare your mighty acts.*

*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:* Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

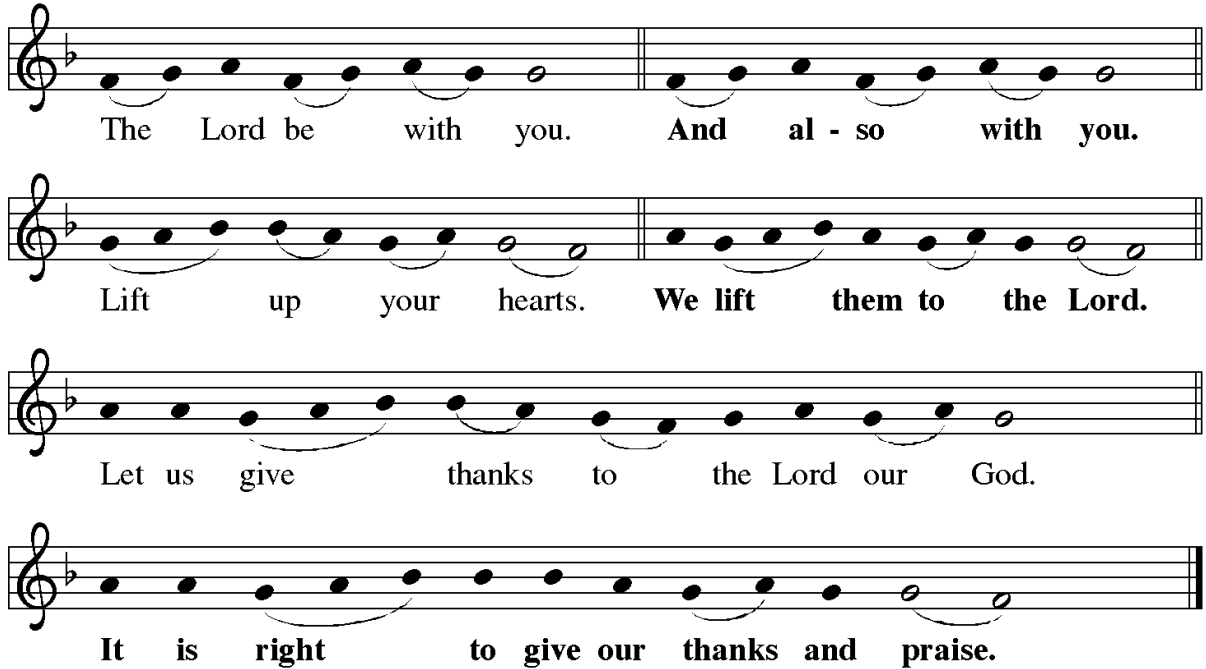
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## MEAL

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



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



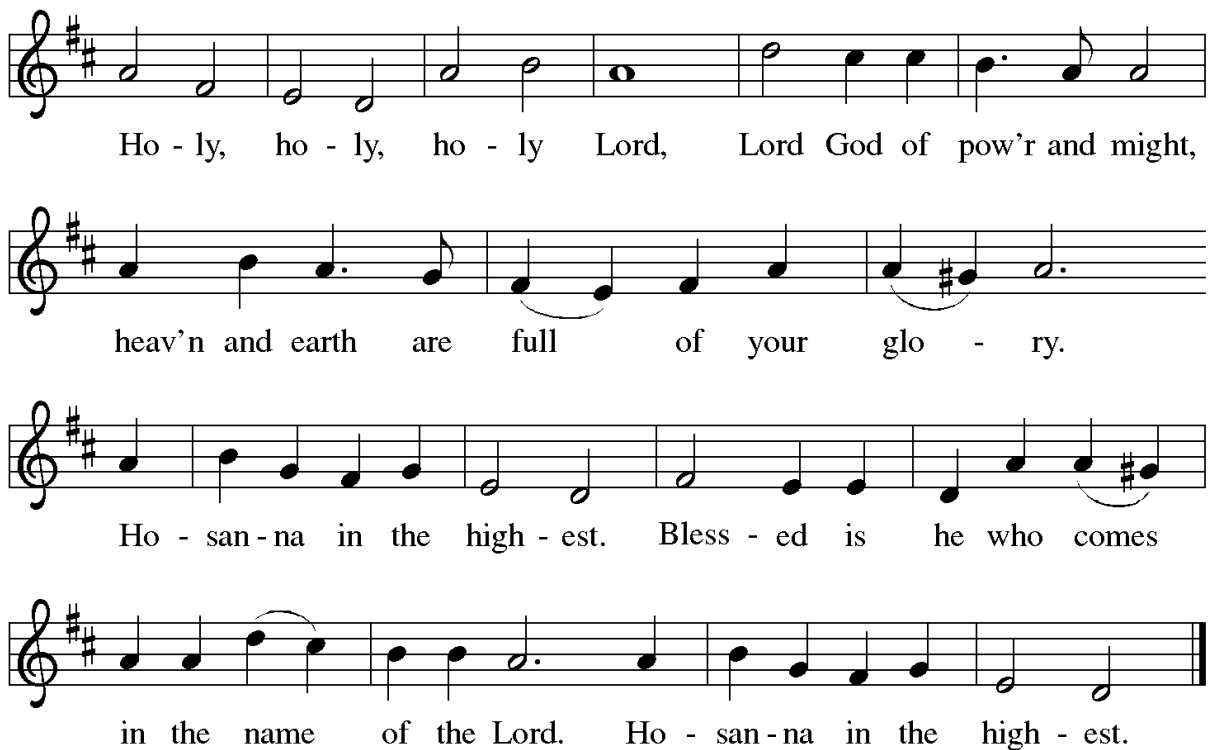
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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 God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 of new life. Receive the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the nave. Please follow 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



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## COMMUNION SONG

‘The Triumph Song of Life’  
arr. Brian Childers

Luther Ringers

## COMMUNION HYMN

‘As We Gather at Your Table’

ELW 522

*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:* Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

# SENDING

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



## BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**'Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service'**

**ELW 712**

## DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....	Lea Anne Thomas
Reader.....	Rosemary Wood
Preacher and Presider.....	Pastor Spence Robertson
Liturgist.....	Rev. Darrell Norris

## ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....	Finley Safrit and Bell Brady
Crucifer.....	Bella German
Banner Bearer.....	Kaitlyn Losh

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