



*Description: Priscila and Aquila host Paul and train Apollos. Artist: Silvia Dimitrova. Date 2013.*

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 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!*

**Buck-A-Meal** - Every one-dollar bill placed in the offering boxes this morning goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

**St. John's Book Club Meeting – Wed., May 13 at 10 am in Room 216 in the Education Wing.** We will read *“The Lincoln Highway”* by Amor Towles.

**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 we 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.



**Graduation Book Signing – “All the Places You'll Go!” May 3-14** - Please be sure to sign these books during this time period, with a meaningful note for each of our graduates this year. The books will be set out on tables in Peeler Hall and the Sanctuary narthex at each of our services, and in Peeler Hall during the week, for your convenience.

**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 the Luther Ringers, accompanied by Janie Rollins and guest musicians. A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Terrie Hess Child Advocacy Center.

**VBS Prep Day – Thurs., May 21, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm or 6-8 pm in the Ark.** Help us prep for VBS! Stacey is ready to spark some themed inspiration, and we need you to help bring it all to life! Crafting skills are not required. Contact [stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org) with any questions.

**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 Peter William Norris, son of Drs. Paul and Joanna Norris and first grandchild of Darrell and Kathy Norris, the perfect gift for their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, by Rev. and Mrs. Darrell Norris.



*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

**‘With A Joyful Heart’  
by Susan Geschke**

**Joyful Ringers**

## 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.**



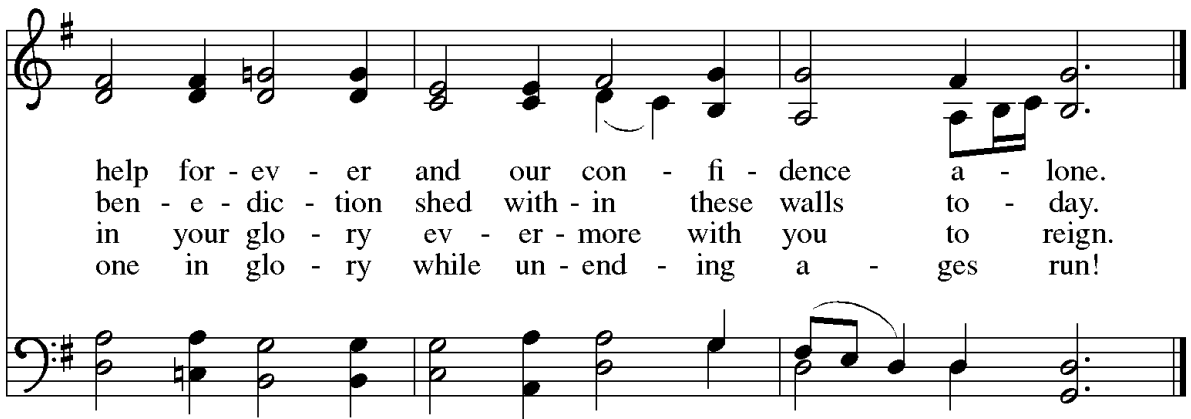
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## 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.**

## THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*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 18:1-4; 24-28**

A reading from Acts, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he found a Jew named Aquila from Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup>and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. <sup>4</sup>Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

<sup>24</sup>Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos from Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord, and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. <sup>27</sup>And

when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers,<sup>28</sup> for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

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

*We rise.*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 24:13-21; 25-31**

*Sing twice.*



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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,<sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.<sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,<sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.<sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.<sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”<sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

<sup>22</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

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

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Lori Carter**

**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

**'Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life'**  
Arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Come, my way, my truth, my life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my light, my feast, my strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my joy, my love, my heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.*

*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.**



## 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, 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:

## 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 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 at the altar. Please follow 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



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

**'I Exalt Thee'**  
arr. Mark Hayes

Pete Sanchez, Jr.

## COMMUNION HYMN

**'I Received the Living God'**

ELW 477

*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

### 'Christ Is Alive'

ELW 389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

**DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE**

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

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Cantor.....Mitch Sigel  
Reader.....Kathy Norris  
Preacher.....Pastor Lori Carter  
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller  
Liturgist.....Pastor James Demmel

**ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S**

Acolytes.....Cooper Charest and Carson Marino  
Crucifer.....AnnaLynn Marino  
Banner Bearer.....Will Charest

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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.*