



5th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are so glad God has brought you here!

Office Closed – Mon., July 6, as we observe America's 250th anniversary! If you have an emergency during that time, please call the church office 704-636-3431 and dial ext. 2990, for the Pastor on call.

St. John's Good Samaritan Ministry – Matching Gift – Thank you to everyone who has given to the Good Samaritan Fund—we have helped 75 families so far this year! We are excited to announce a special matching gift opportunity! Right now, all new donations to the Good Samaritan Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$4,000, thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor. Scan the QR code to give now or call the church office.



Mercy and Justice Monthly Ministry Highlight - Bread Riot – The Bread Riot is a local, totally volunteer, not-for-profit organization that purchases produce from local farmers and distributes that fresh healthy food to those who need. The St. John's Benevolent Foundation and the North Carolina Synod as well as individual congregational members are among our supporters. Steve Puckett and Dottie Hoy serve on the Board of Directors.

St. John's Rainbow Makers – Birthday Book Drive – Jun. 28-Aug. 2 - for our Kindergarten and Child Development Center. Scan the QR code for the wish list or purchase an age-appropriate book and drop it off in the designated area at the church. Make sure to write a birthday message inside.



Serenity Sisters – Join us tonight at 5 pm. Contact stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org to join or for more details.

St. John's Book Club – Wed., Jul. 8 at 10 am in room 216. Contact Gerrie Blackwelder with any questions at blackwggw@gmail.com.

St. John's Young Adults: The young adults (20s-30s) of St. John's gather for a monthly time of fellowship. Our next event will be at the home of Jason and Skylar Ussery on **Jul. 9, at 6:30 pm.** For details, RSVP to james@stjohns-salisbury.org. You can also sign up to join the SJ Young Adult email list by scanning the QR code here.



Sanctuary Closure Dates - Jul. 13 – Sept. 1. During this time, our worship services will be held in the Faith Center, as the stained-glass window is repaired, the elevator replaced and the pipe organ cleaned. We will keep you apprised of any changes to this schedule. Thank you for your patience throughout this process.

Hands and Feet Camp – Jul. 21-23, 9 am - 4 pm, Current 3rd – 5th Graders (Rising 4th – 6th Graders). There will be morning devotions and opportunities to serve in the community, lunch, and fun afternoon outings! Scan QR code here to Register.



Altar Flowers - Given to the Glory of God and in Honor of John Haywood Odell on his first birthday and in Memory of Betsey Odell Cheshire, by John Odell, proud grandfather and brother.



*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.

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,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

'Lord of Glory'

ELW 707

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.

GLORY TO YOU, GOD



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND TEMPLE TALK

Kingdom Kids will return on Sunday, August 16. Activity bags are in the narthex.



READING

Jeremiah 28:1-17

A reading from Jeremiah, the 28th chapter.

¹ In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, ²“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. ³Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord’s house, which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. ⁴I will also bring back to this place King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, says the Lord, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.”

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

¹⁰ Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it. ¹¹ And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, “Thus says the Lord: This is how I will break the yoke of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years.” At this, the prophet Jeremiah went his way.

¹² Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ¹³ Go, tell Hananiah, Thus says the Lord: You have broken wooden bars only to forge iron bars in place of them! ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put an iron yoke on the neck of all these nations so that they may serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and they shall indeed serve him; I have even given him the wild animals. ¹⁵ And the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, “Listen, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you made this people trust in a lie. ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord: I am going to send you off the face of the earth. Within this year you will be dead, for you have spoken rebellion against the Lord.” ¹⁷ In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:40-42

Sing twice.



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘God, We Gather As Your People’

ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we’re work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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:

God of grace,
hear 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

'The Gift of Love'

by H. Hal Hopson

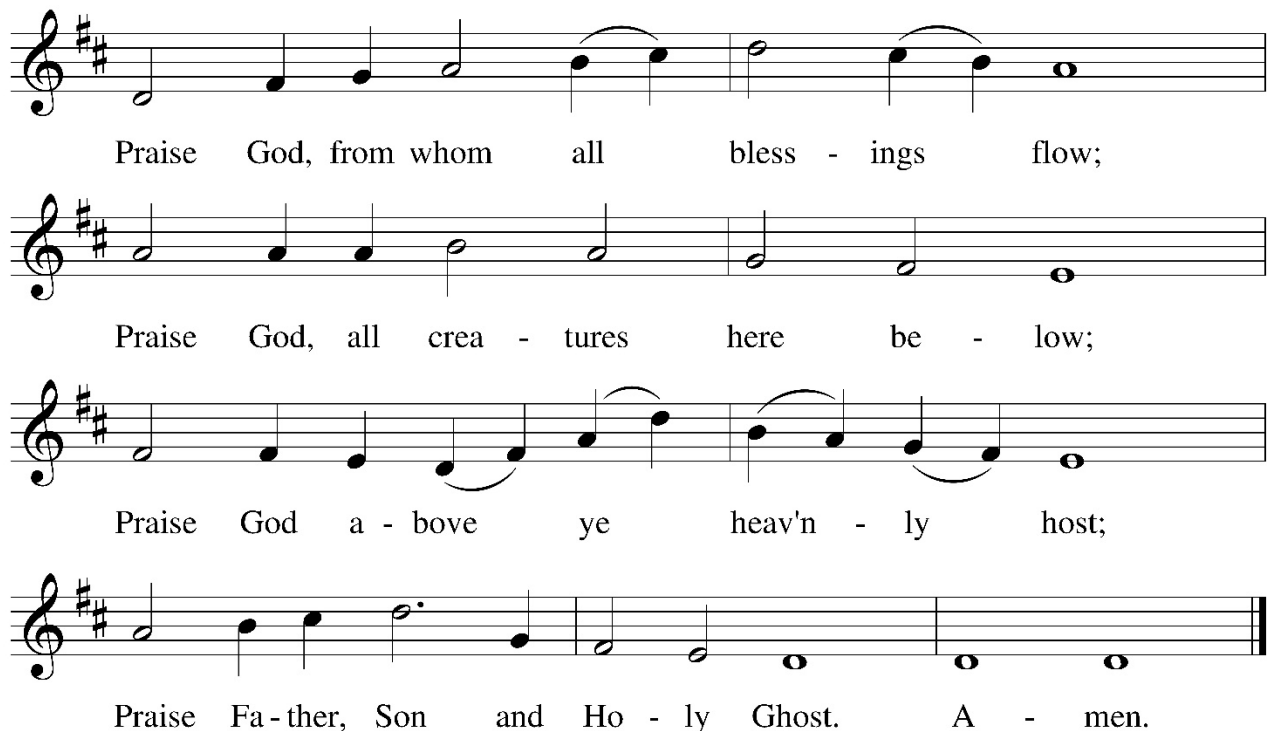
*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.*

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: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

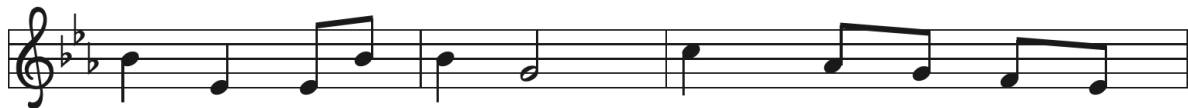
Lift up your hearts.

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 AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ACS Form F

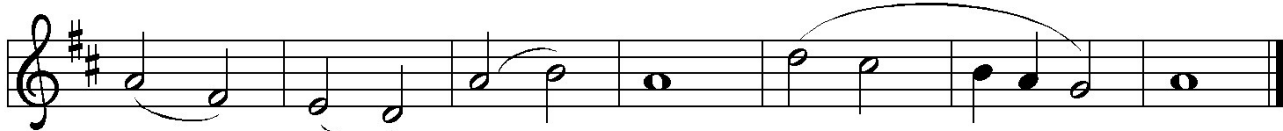
...With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

...Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

...Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.



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

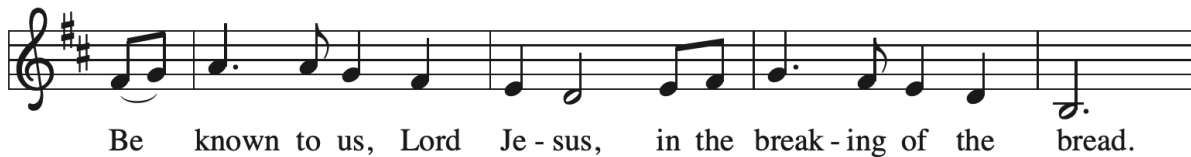
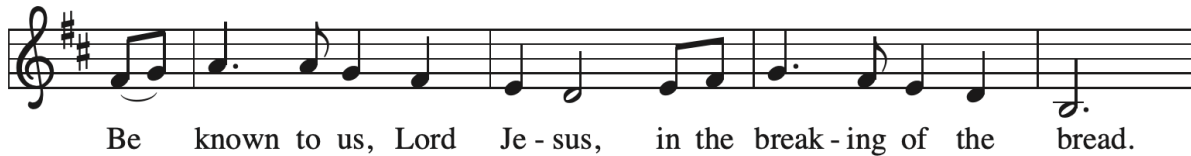
Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! **Thanks be to God.**

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



COMMUNION SONG

'Father, We Thank You'
Thom Hinson, performer

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

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



BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'To Be Your Presence'

ELW 546

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....	Tricia Holt
Preacher.....	Pastor James Demmel
Presider.....	Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Liturgist.....	Pastor Lori Carter

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....	Elijah Young and Waylen Jarrett
Crucifer.....	Noah Young
Banner Bearer.....	Gabriel Young

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies, annual license # 26999.