



*Title: Our Banner in the Sky. Artist: Frederic Edwin Church. Date: 1861.*

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*U.S.A. Semiquincentennial*  
July 5, 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!*

**SANCTUARY CLOSURE REMINDER:** Next Sunday, **Jul. 12**, will be our **last worship service in the Sanctuary**. Our string of projects includes restoring/repairing the stained-glass window, cleaning the pipe organ and the long-awaited new elevator install. Our worship services will be held in the Faith Center, during the closure. The anticipated re-open date is Sept. 1. We will keep you apprised of any changes to this schedule. Thank you for your patience throughout this process.

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

**Office Closed – Tomorrow, Jul. 6, as we observe America's 250<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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.



**Way in the Wilderness with Isaiah** – The Synod is offering a daily Bible study on the book of Isaiah beginning today, **Jul. 5**. For details and access, please check out our Faith Life email.

**St. John's Book Club – Wed., Jul. 8 at 10 am in room 216.** Contact Gerrie Blackwelder with any questions at [blackwgd@gmail.com](mailto:blackwgd@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](mailto:james@stjohns-salisbury.org). You can also sign up to join the SJ Young Adult email list by scanning the QR code here.



**RISE! 2-day Workshop – Aug. 21-22, from 10 am – 6 pm**, in the PIT. A vision for racial healing. Scan QR code here for more information and to register. Contact Kathy Roberson with any questions at [kathyroberson66@gmail.com](mailto:kathyroberson66@gmail.com).



**Altar Flowers** - Given to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Norbe Wilson, a true Patriot, and all who have fought to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today in our United States of America, by Kay Wilson and family.



---

*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

## SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
**whose providence orders the nations,**  
whose mercy endures from generation to generation,  
**and whose kingdom shall have no end.**

*Hear these words written by John Adams in the year of our nation's birth: "The [4th] of July, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forth forevermore."*

As we gather on this day of remembrance and thanksgiving, let us indeed offer unto Almighty God our solemn acts of devotion: giving thanks for the blessings of life and liberty; praying for wisdom, justice, and peace among the nations; and remembering that while we are citizens of this earthly commonwealth, our highest allegiance and truest citizenship are found in the kingdom of God.

*Let us echo the words of Thomas Jefferson:*  
**"The God who gave us life gave us liberty."**

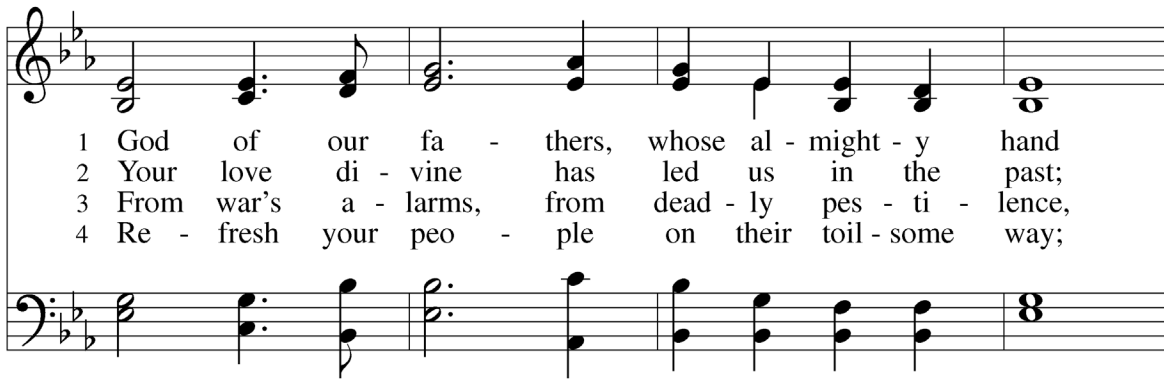
Therefore, with grateful hearts, let us worship the God from whom every good and perfect gift proceeds. Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us praise the One who has guided, guarded, granted, and graced us, and our forebears, and who remains our hope and our confidence for generations yet to come.

*We rise and face the cross.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**'God of Our Fathers'**

**LBW 567**



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand  
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;  
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,  
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
in this free land by you our lot is cast;  
make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.  
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:  
oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;  
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;  
fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace



our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.  
your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.  
your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

## 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:* Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

---

## WORD

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



---

## READING

**Psalm 145:8-14**

A reading from Psalm 145, spoken responsively.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**Lord, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures through-out all ages.**

**You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

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

*We rise.*

## GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Sing twice.*



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Dan Joyner Miller**

*We rise.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**‘O Beautiful’**

**ELW 888**

**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.*

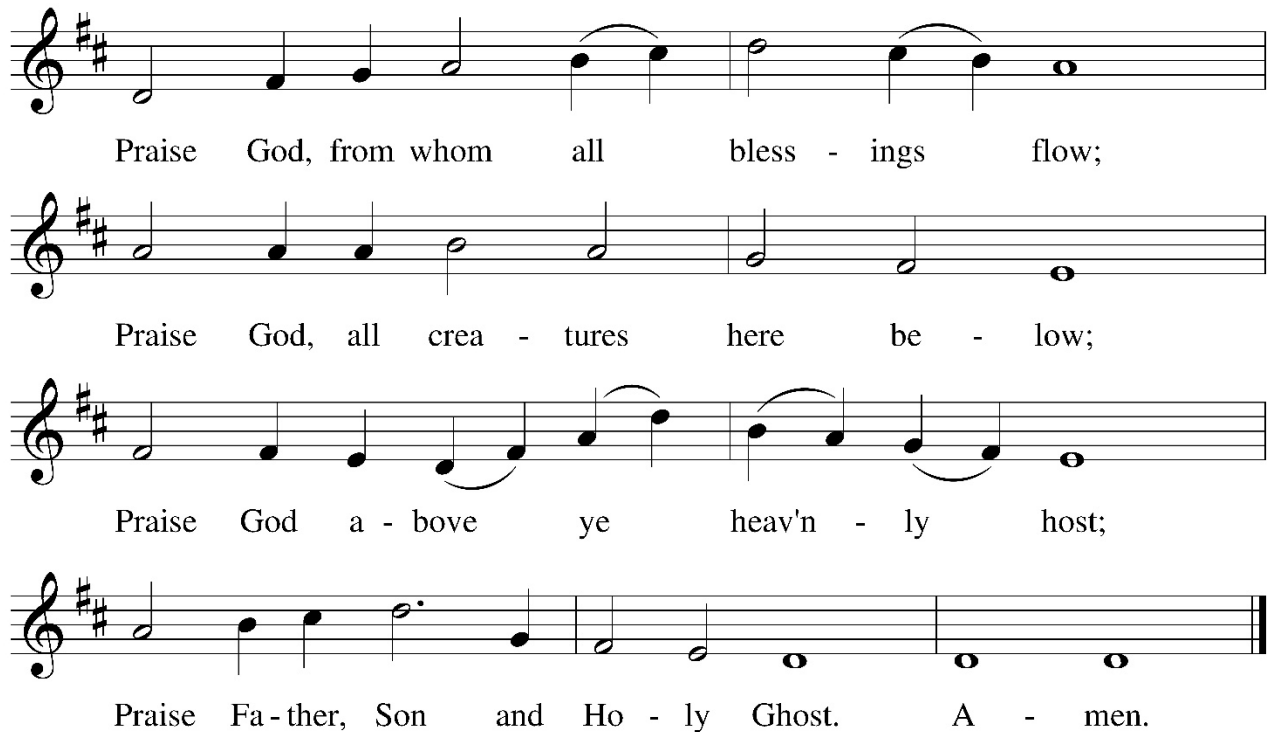
### OFFERING

**'Eternal Father Strong to Save'**  
Janie Rollins and Spence Robertson

arr. David Schwoebel

*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:* Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

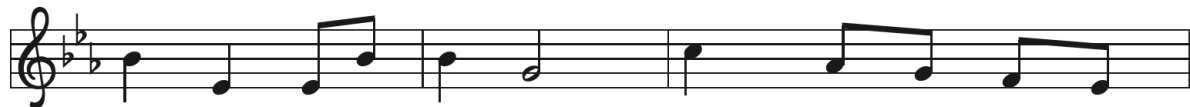
Lift up your hearts.

**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

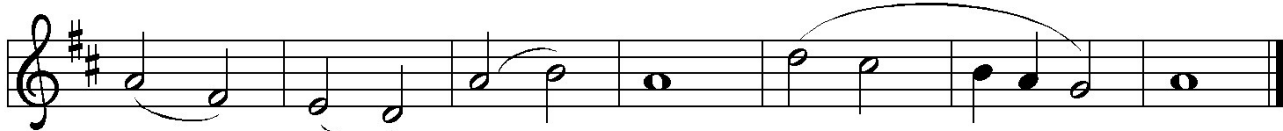
...With hearts full of memories and hopes,  
we break this bread and share this cup,  
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,  
and his promise to be with us always  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

Come, taste and see that God is good. **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

**'Peace Prayer'**  
Janie Rollins and Rosemary Kinard

by Kevin Keil

## COMMUNION HYMN

**'This is My Song'**

ELW 887

*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:* We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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



**BLESSING**

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth,  
✠ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving,  
today and every day. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**'Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory'**

**ELW 890**

**DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE**

Go in peace, share the good news!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

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

**ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S**

Acolytes.....Caleb Rathbun and Emily Rhyne  
Crucifer.....Brenden Sifford  
Banner Bearer.....Benny Rathbun

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