



Title: Sower at Sunset. Date: 1888. Artist: Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890.

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Sanctuary Closure Begins tomorrow, Jul. 13, with a projected end date of 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 in advance for your patience throughout this process.

Reserved Parking Signs – Please note our new signs which indicate reserved parking on Sunday mornings along the Education Wing for Handicapped and those with Limited Mobility.

High School Mission Trip - Brooklyn, NY – Jul. 11-18 - Join us in praying for our 17 high schoolers and 4 chaperones this week as they journey to New York City to serve with feeding ministries across the borough of Brooklyn.

Way in the Wilderness with Isaiah – The Synod is offering a daily Bible study on the book of Isaiah which began Jul. 5 and will go through **Jul. 23**. For details and access, please check out our Faith Life email.

St. John's Rainbow Makers – Birthday Book Drive – through 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.



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.



Leadership Development Retreat – Aug. 28-30 – St. John's is hosting a Leadership Development Retreat. This weekend event will help participants grow spiritually while developing confidence and skills for leadership and service. For more information, please contact Pastor Dan at dan@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Altar Flowers - Please visit our website to reserve your altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion. You may also scan the QR code here or call our office for assistance.





*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.**

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: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sing twice.



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered

away.⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower.¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lori Carter

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast’

ELW 516

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

'Bread of the World'

By Mark Pope

*Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead.*

*Look on the heart by sorrow broken.
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be your feast to us the token
that by your grace our souls are fed.*

Hallelujah!

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.

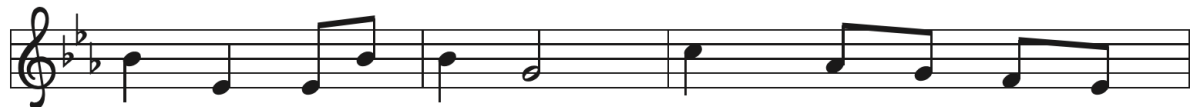
Lift up your hearts.

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

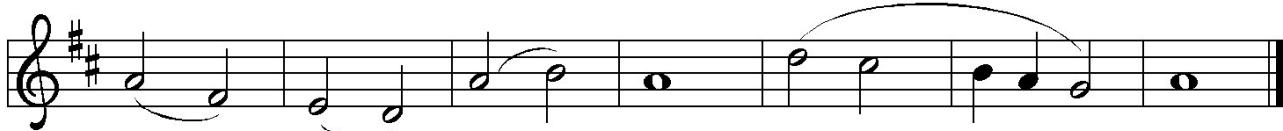
...With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

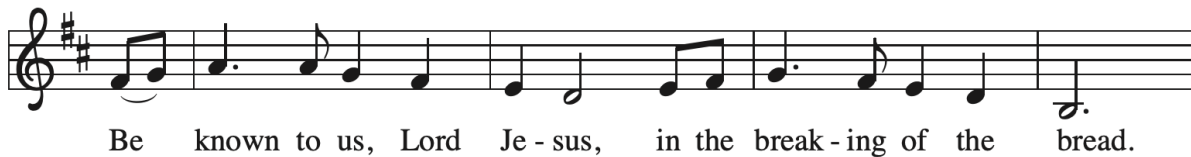
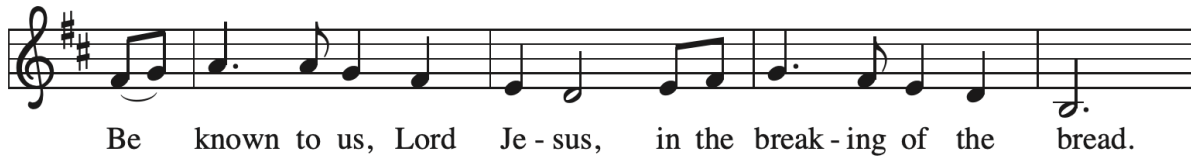
Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! **Thanks be to God.**

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 ‘The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe’ Setting, John Helgen
Performer, Janie Rollins

COMMUNION HYMN ‘For the Fruit of All Creation’ ELW 679

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

'The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve'

ELW 551

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Parker Hatchett
Preacher.....Pastor Lori Carter
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Liturgist.....Pastor Lori Carter

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Brenna Baucom and Wyatt Barnhardt

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

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 CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames 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*
Director of Worship and the Arts *emeritus*.....Robert J. Durocher, 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 Wymbbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*