



Title: Wheat Field with Cypress (1889). Artist: Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890).

8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 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!

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.

St. John's Kindergarten – Register Now – Registration is now open and we are filling up fast! We offer Pre-K and Kindergarten; half-day and afterschool programs. Contact us today! Call (704) 636-4404 or via email: kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org. We are also seeking to hire a Substitute Teacher to join our Kindergarten Team. (Experience in early childhood education is preferred.)

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 - Given to the Glory of God and in honor of
Dottie and Geoffrey Hoy's anniversary, by Dottie Hoy.



*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books in front of you.*

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

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music, each with three vocal parts (1, 2, 3) and corresponding lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the sixth line.

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: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kingdom Kids will return on Sunday, August 16. Activity bags are in Peeler Hall.

WORD

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



READING

Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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.**

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

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

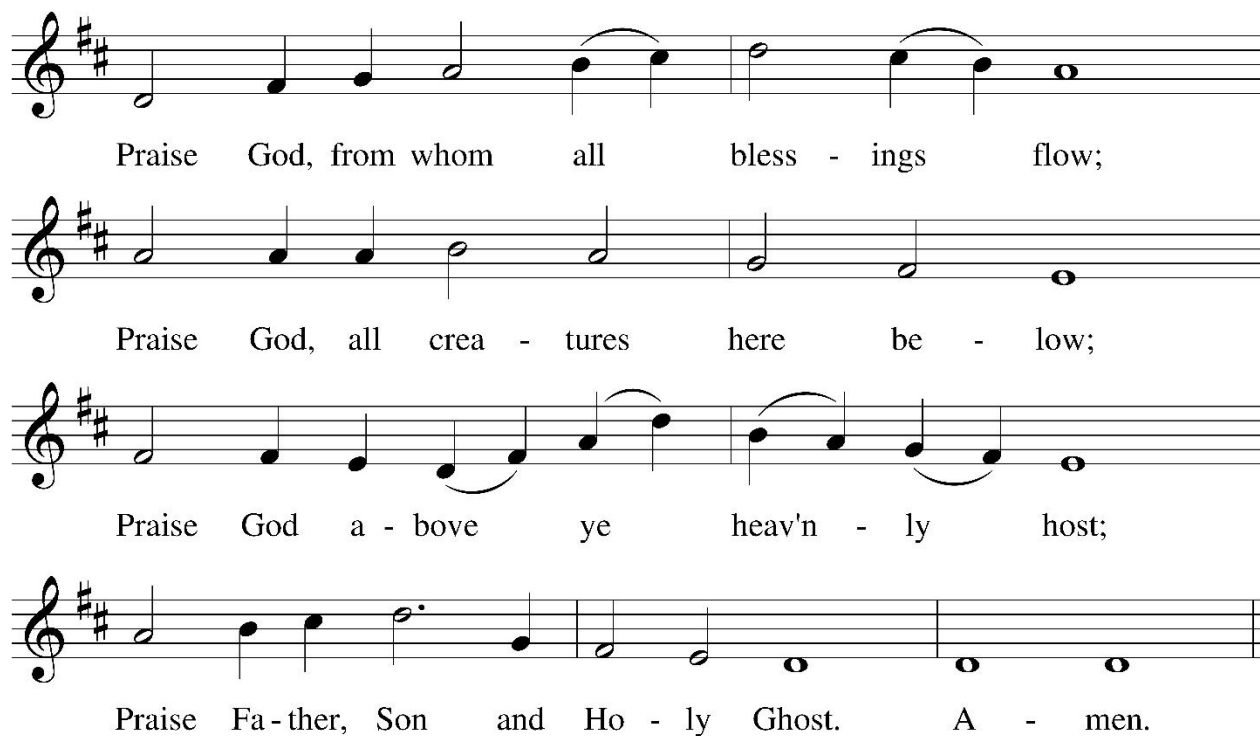
**'Teach Me Your Way'
Spence Robertson**

*Teach me your way, O Lord, teach me your path.
Help me to walk, O God, in ways that last.
Show me your way, O Light, shine on my path.
Teach me your truth, O Word of God, at last.*

*I will thank you and I will praise your name.
I will bless you and glorify your name.*

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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



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

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.
We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.

THE 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. Please follow the usher's guidance to one of the three communion stations. 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 inform an usher.

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

‘Meditation on the Eighth’

by Davis Brown

COMMUNION HYMN

‘Praise and Thanksgiving’

ELW 689

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 ‘Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word’ ELW 663

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Wesley Rhyne
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor Lori Carter
Liturgist.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S

Acolytes.....Isaac Schmiesing
Crucifer.....Emmett Stephenson
Banner Bearer.....Jeffrey Stephenson

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