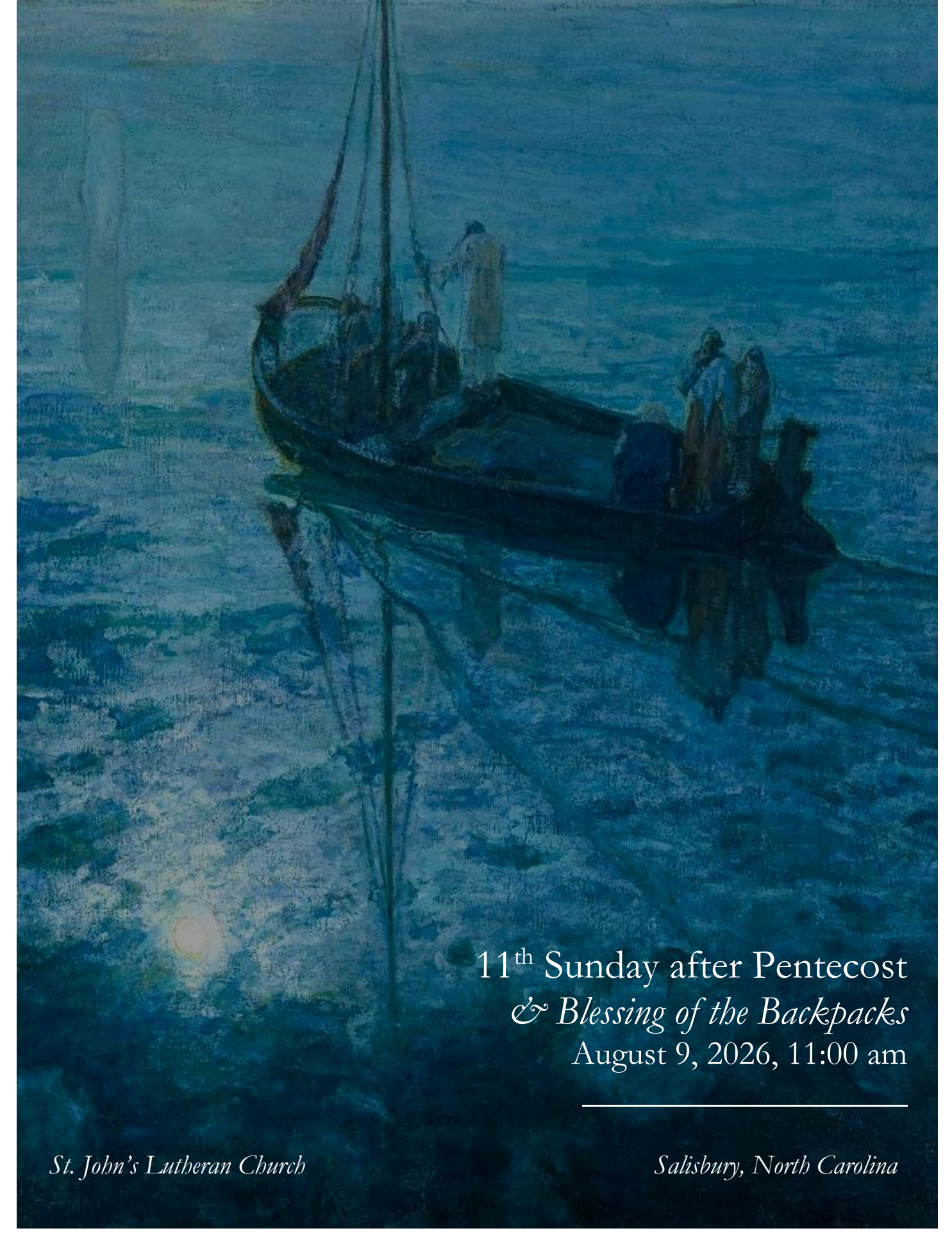


A painting of a small boat on a body of water, with figures inside and a reflection on the water. The scene is rendered in a dark, moody style with a blue and green color palette. The boat is positioned in the center, and its reflection is visible in the water below. Several figures are visible inside the boat, and a small, bright light source is visible in the lower left corner of the painting.

11th Sunday after Pentecost
& *Blessing of the Backpacks*
August 9, 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!

Blessing of the Backpacks – Today, we will be blessing backpacks and work bags during the service. We will pray for our students, teachers and school administration as they begin another school year.

Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions – Sept. 16-19 – Reserve your appointment today! Scan the QR code here or sign up before or after our Sunday services today through Sept. 13. Please be sure to sign up today, as slots will fill up quickly.



Play Ball, St. John's! – Join St. John's co-ed softball team for the fall of 2026 through the Parks and Recreation Department of Salisbury. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons and begin in mid-August. Contact Pastor Dan: dan@stjohns-salisbury.org if you are interested in signing up.

2027 Sign-up Forms in OneChurch – Whether you wish to reserve a date for Altar Flowers, assist as a Communion Server or Read at our worship service, we have created a handout with QR codes to easily access these and many other useful forms such as a Facility Use Request, Communications Request, etc. The handout titled, “St. John's Form Access” is now available in all our literature racks throughout our campus. Pick up a copy today and keep it handy!

Women's Ministry Group – Game Night – Aug. 13, 6-8 pm in the PIT. We will be collecting school supplies for Isenburg Elementary. Grab your supply list handout. Bring a snack to share. Games will be provided. Come join the fun! Contact Rhines509@gmail.com with any questions.

Children and Youth Ministries at St. Johns – As we begin a new school year, it is the perfect time to get involved with children and youth ministry at St. John's! If you know a young person who would like to be involved with our programs, or if you would like to volunteer with children or youth ministry, contact Pastor James (james@stjohns-salisbury.org) or Ms. Stacey (stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org). Sunday School starts on Aug. 16.

Visitor Meet & Greet – Aug. 16 at 10:30 am. You're invited to join us for a warm welcome gathering where visitors can connect with our pastors and have their questions answered. We will gather in the room across from the Welcome Desk in Peeler Hall.

Newly-added Pre-K Classroom Celebration – Aug. 16, following the 11 am worship service. Come Celebrate with us at the opening of our additional Pre-K Classroom and in honoring 80 Years of Loving, Learning, and Leading at our St. John's Kindergarten Program – We will meet at the playground! See you there!

God's Work, Our Hands – Sept. 13 – Save the Date...for our annual community service project which will benefit Zion Hills and St. John's, this year. Details are coming soon.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother Doris Alexander, by Tricia Holt.



*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

‘March in C’ by Walter and Carol Nona
performers, Noah Young, Kim Lentz

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: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith 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 the narthex.

WORD

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



READING

Romans 10:5-15

A reading from Romans, the 10th chapter.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

Sing twice.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘Eternal Father Strong to Save’

ELW 756

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:

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.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Be seated.

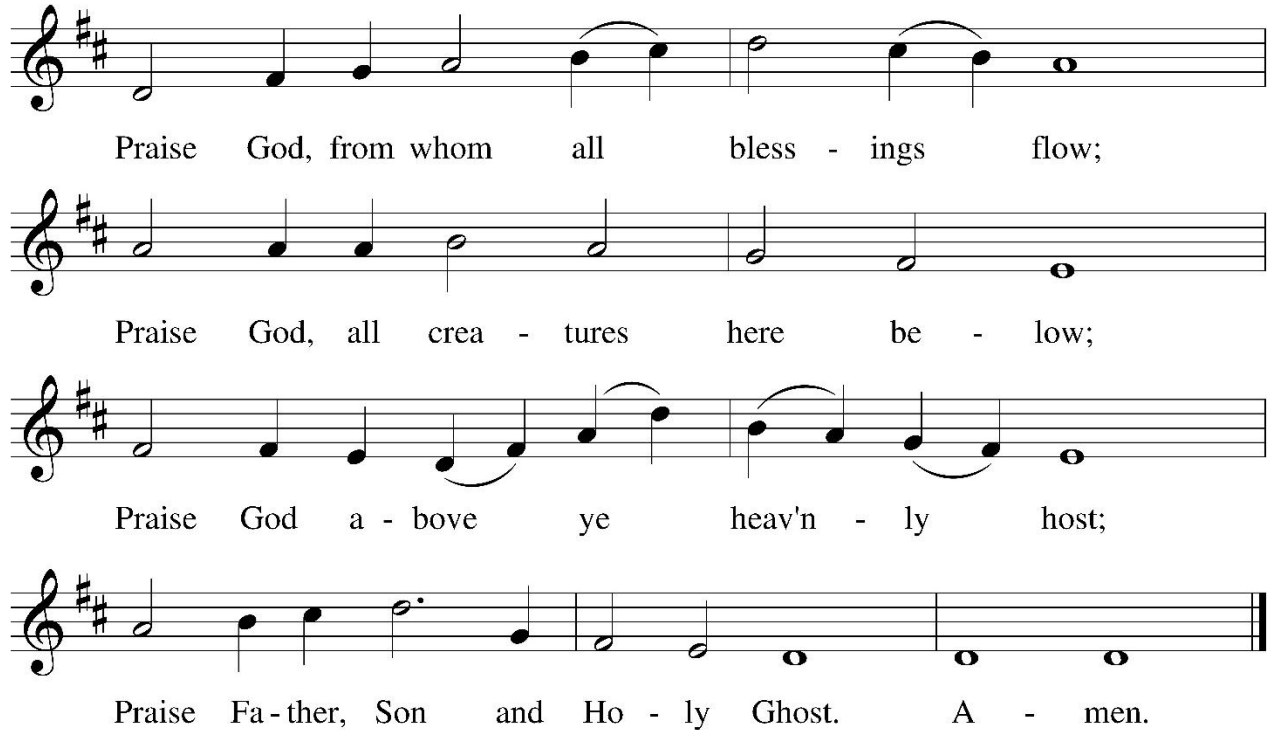
OFFERING AND SONG

'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' Piano Duet

arr. Joel Raney

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.



1 When the storms of life are rag - ing, stand by me;
 2 In the midst of trib - u - la - tion, stand by me;
 3 In the midst of faults and fail - ures, stand by me;
 4 In the midst of per - se - cu - tion, stand by me;
 5 When I'm grow - ing old and fee - ble, stand by me;



when the storms of life are rag - ing, stand by me;
 in the midst of trib - u - la - tion, stand by me;
 in the midst of faults and fail - ures, stand by me;
 in the midst of per - se - cu - tion, stand by me;
 when I'm grow - ing old and fee - ble, stand by me;



when the world is toss - ing me like a ship up - on the sea;
 when the hosts of hell as - sail, and my strength be - gins to fail,
 when I do the best I can, and my friends mis - un - der - stand,
 when my foes in battle ar - ray un - der - take to stop my way,
 when my life be - comes a burden, and I'm near - ing chil - ly Jordan,



thou who rul - est wind and wa - ter, stand by me.
 thou who nev - er lost a bat - tle, stand by me.
 thou who know - est all a - bout me, stand by me.
 thou who saved . . Paul and Si - las, stand by me.
 O thou Lil - y of the Val - ley, stand by me.

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 ‘Just a Closer Walk with Thee’ ELW 697

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Stacey Shafer
Preacher.....Pastor James Demmel
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S

Acolytes.....Cooper Charest and Noah Trick
Crucifer.....William Charest
Banner Bearer.....Gabriel Shafer

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