



Title: Jesus Teaching. Artist: Jorge Cocco Santangelo (b.1936)

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 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!

Newly-added Pre-K Classroom Celebration - following the service today. We will meet at the playground! 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.

Fun & Fellowship – Make meaningful connections, build lasting friendships, one gathering at a time. Groups of 8-10 meet monthly, **September through February**. Email stephanie@stjohns-salisbury.org, by **Aug. 23**.

Bibles and Brew – Men's Ministry – Aug. 25 at 6 pm – Join us at Grove Cartel Brewing Co., 211 N. Main St., China Grove, NC 28023.

Serenity Sisters – Aug. 29 at 10 am at Ashlee Dangerfield's home, 1312 Stonewyck Dr., Salisbury, NC. Bring a favorite brunch item or snack to share as we enjoy a relaxed morning of conversation, encouragement, and planning for another wonderful year of growing together in faith. To join email ashlee@ashemb.com.

Silent Angel Ministry Team – Now accepting nominations for individuals within our congregation who faithfully serve St. John's through their time, talents, and love. They are those whose behind-the-scenes contributions help make our church a welcoming and vibrant place for all. Scan the QR code to submit your nominee or contact Kathy Rusher kathyrusher@gmail.com. Our winner will be announced on **Aug. 30** during the worship service.



Become an Outreach Shepherd – Join us for training on **Aug. 30 at 2 pm in the Goodman Dining Hall**. Help share Christ's love by welcoming and connecting visitors to the life of St. John's. Contact Pastor James for more info at james@stjohns-salisbury.org.

4th Grade Milestone "Baptismal Partners"- Aug. 30 at 2 pm. Join Mrs. Stacey in the Ark. **RSVP by Aug. 24** to stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

God's Work, Our Hands – Sept. 13 – We will have indoor and outdoor volunteer options to benefit Zion Hills and various community outreach projects. There will be a light lunch in Ritchie Hall for volunteers, following the service. Scan the QR code to **sign up by Sept. 9**.



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 **through Sept. 13**. Please be sure to sign up today, as slots will fill up quickly.



Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Davey Rhodes, by Gary and Scott Rhodes.

Additional Flowers – Peeler Hall – Given to the Glory of God and in honor of Ann Hatchett on our 50th wedding anniversary, Aug. 14, by Parker Hatchett.



*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

'God, Whose Almighty Word'

ELW 673

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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND TEMPLE TALK

*Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**.
Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.*



READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans, the 11th chapter.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sing twice.



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

...continue...

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

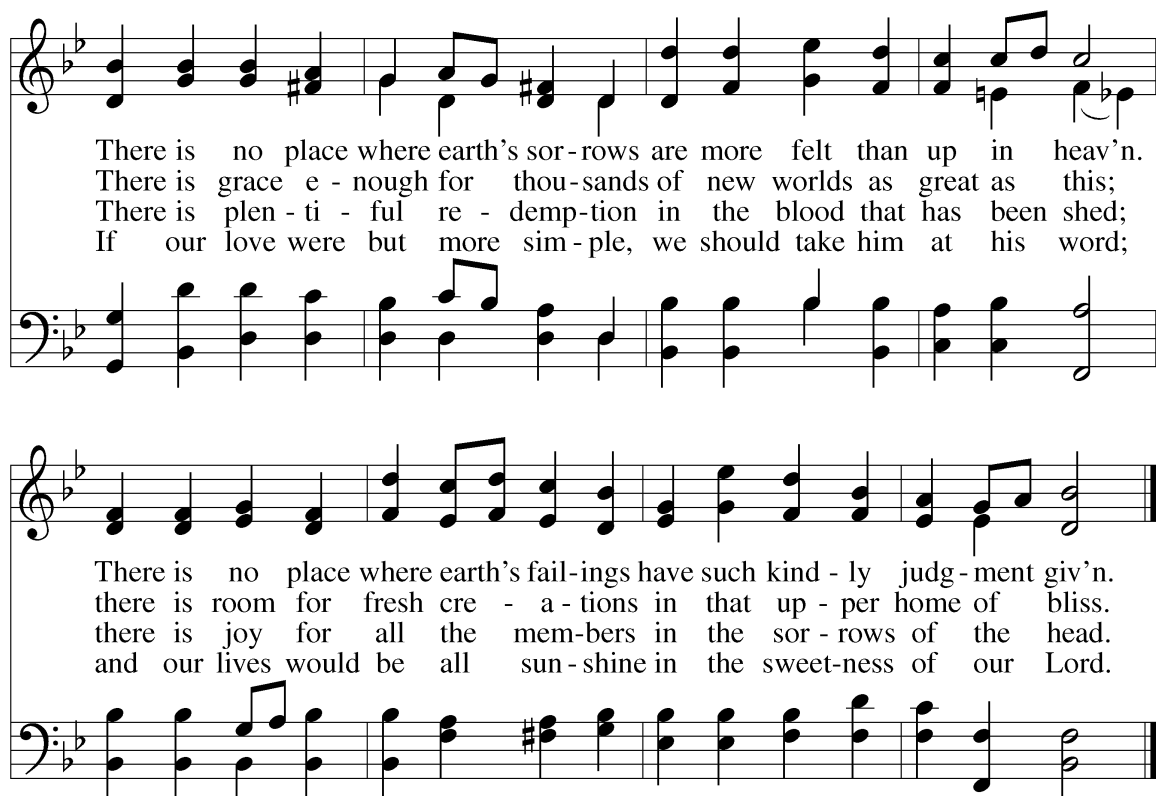
‘There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy’

HFW 1227

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je-sus; it is some-thing more than all:

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the e-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 great-er good be-cause of e-vil, larg-er mer-cy through the fall.

...continue...



There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e-nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
 There is plen-ti-ful re-demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more sim-ple, we should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre-a-tions in that up-per home of bliss.
 there is joy for all the mem-bers in the sor-rows of the head.
 and our lives would be all sun-shine in the sweet-ness of our Lord.

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 $\pm$ 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.

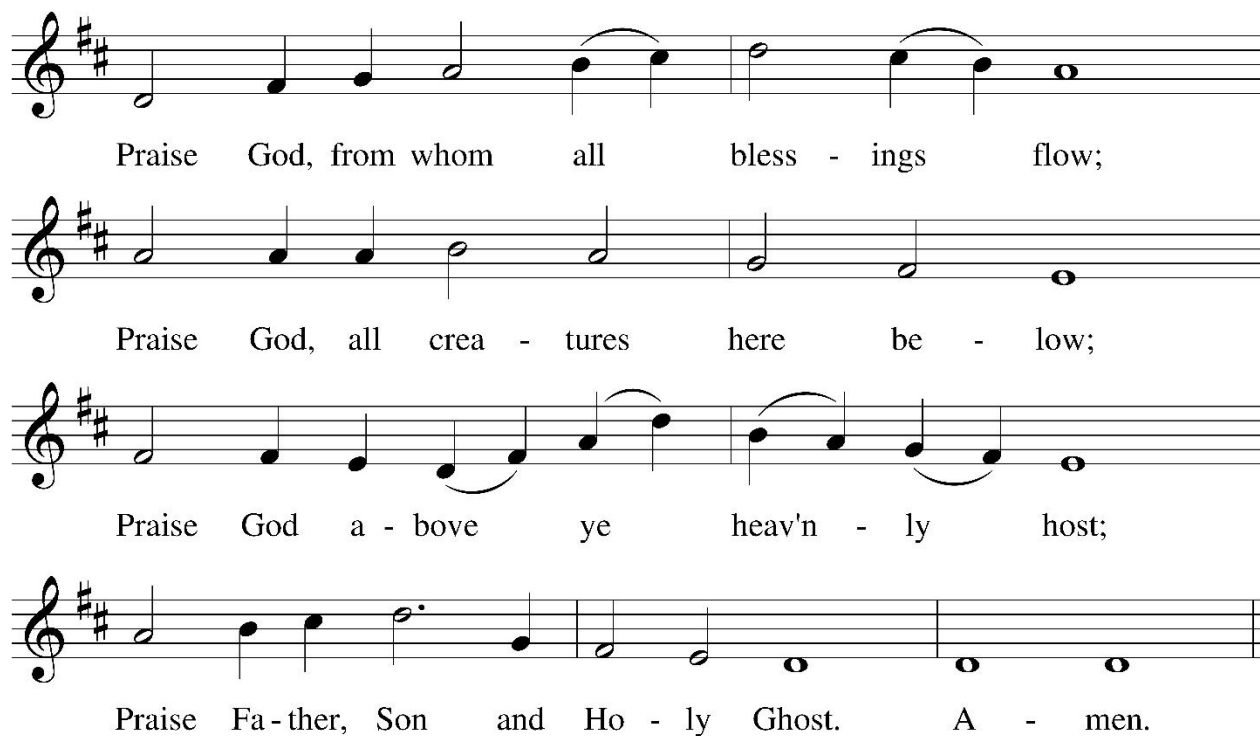
Be seated.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

'Let Us Come'
 by Karen Marroli

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

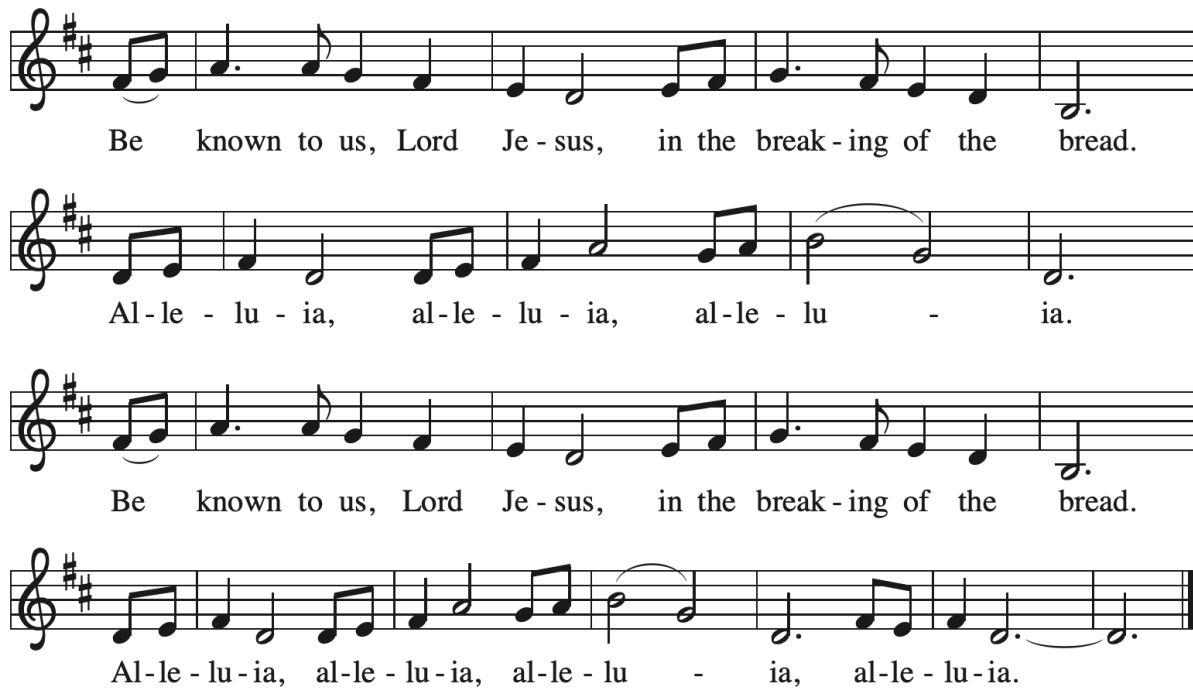
Heaven has come near. Come, share in the
feast! **Thanks be to God.**

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

‘How Great Is Our God’
Performer, Thom Hinson

arr. Richard Kingsmore

COMMUNION HYMN

‘My Faith Looks Up to Thee’

ELW 759

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.**

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

‘Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven’

ELW 864

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

We will meet at the Playground at 12:30 pm!

Come join us in celebration 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’d love to see you there!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Parker Hatchett
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S

Acolytes.....Finley Safrit and Emily Rhyne
Crucifer.....Ashton Williams
Banner Bearer.....Balian Witt

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