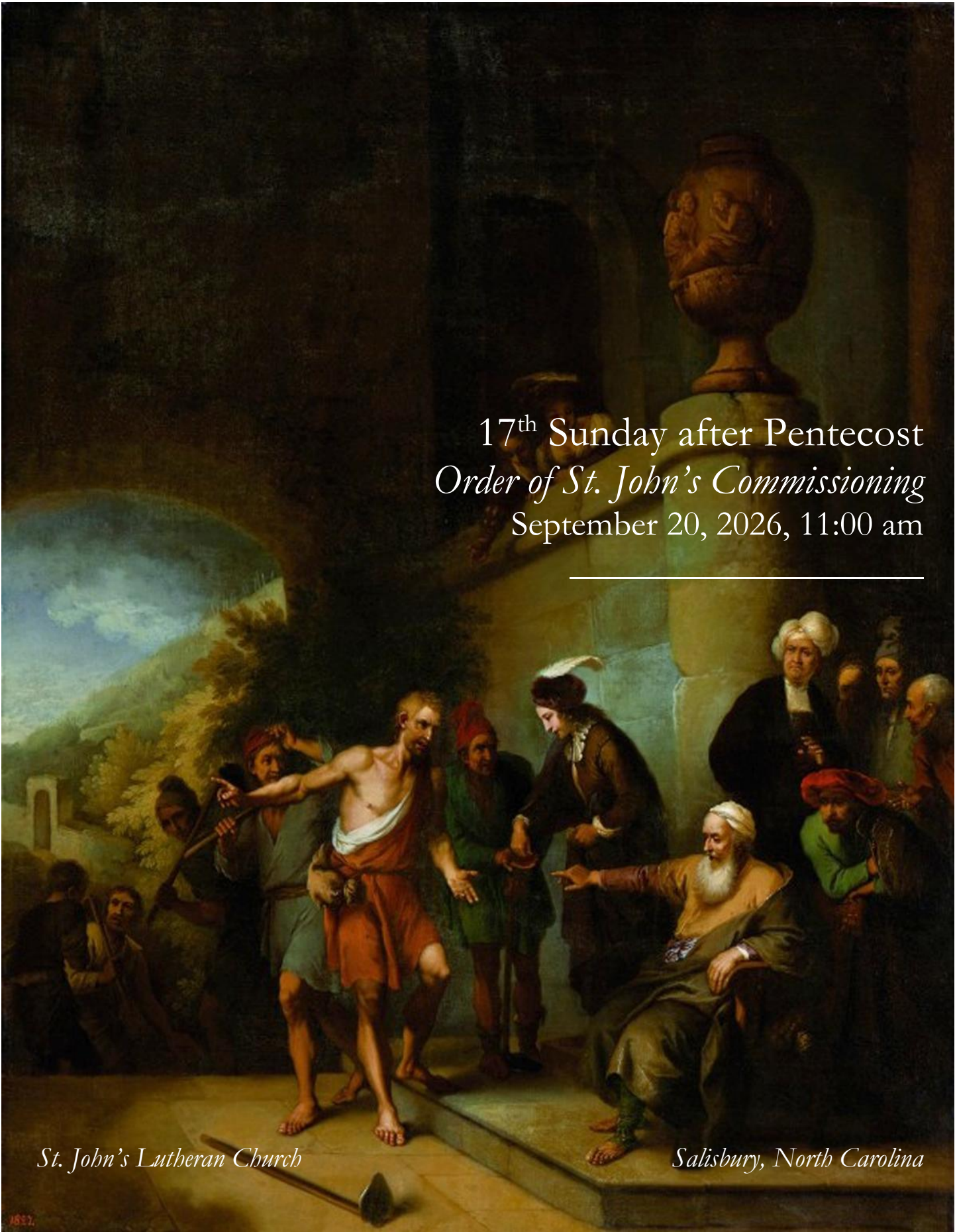


The painting depicts the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. In the center, a man in a red tunic and white sash, representing the landowner, is being led by a man in a green tunic. To the right, a man in a brown robe and white turban, representing the Jewish high priest, is seated and pointing towards the landowner. A group of men in various robes and turbans stand behind him. In the background, a large stone urn sits on a pedestal. The scene is set in a vineyard with a rainbow visible in the sky. The painting is signed '1812' in the bottom left corner.

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of St. John's Commissioning
September 20, 2026, 11:00 am

St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

Title: Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (1752). Artist: Dietrich, Christian Wilhelm Ernst (1712-1774).

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Mercy and Justice Ministry Moment - Let us welcome the Executive Director of GRACES, Hannah Nadeau Girón. GRACES supports education and other relief services for children and adolescents who live in poverty near Antigua, Guatemala. St. John's has partnered with GRACES for many years, taking many adult and youth trips to visit and support the ongoing ministry.

Order of St. John's Training – today from 12:30-2 pm in the Goodman Dining Room. This event is for 6th and 9th graders to get introduced to the responsibilities of the Order of St. John's. Participants will receive training as acolytes, crucifers, banner bearers, and processionalists. Lunch is included.

Bibles & Brew – Men's Ministry – Sept. 22 at 6 pm. Grove Cartel Brewing Co., 211 N. Main St., China Grove, NC.

Wednesday Night Meals – Sept. 23 at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Reservations are not needed. Visit our website for the menu and to purchase your season pass at stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays. **Vespers at 6:15 pm in the Chapel.**

Congregational Study – Sept. 23 at 6 pm in Ritchie Hall. Join us for an important conversation about who we are as a congregation, where we are today, and where God is leading us next, as we prepare to call a new pastor.

Men's Ministry Breakfast – Sept. 26 at 8:30 am in Ritchie Hall. Our guest speaker will be David Whisnant, retired news reporter with WBTV. Sign up today using the QR code here or call the church office.



Worship at the Lake – Sept. 27 at 9:27 am with a **Congregational Brunch starting at 10:30 am.** All are invited to join us at St. John's Retreat Property located at 220 Mockingbird Lane, Salisbury, NC. We will enjoy a peaceful morning of worship reflection and community – gathered together in the beauty of nature. Bring a chair and dish to share.

1st Grade Milestone “*The Lord's Prayer*” – Sept. 27 at 2 pm. Join Ms. Stacey in the Ark. RSVP by Sept. 21 to Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Catawba Singers - Oct. 4 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. Shuford School of Performing Arts presents The Catawba Singers, featuring St. John's Chancel Choir – “*An American Tapestry*”. Songs, stories and voices woven into the American experience.

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. Remaining available dates for the year are: Oct. 4, 18 & 25.





*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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **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.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le -

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. To verses Last time lu - ia.

1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME, AND MERCY AND JUSTICE MOMENT

*Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**.*

Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.

WORD

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



READING

Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians, the 1st chapter.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘As Saints of Old’

ELW 695

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S COMMISSIONING

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Share the 'peace' of Christ with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Be seated.

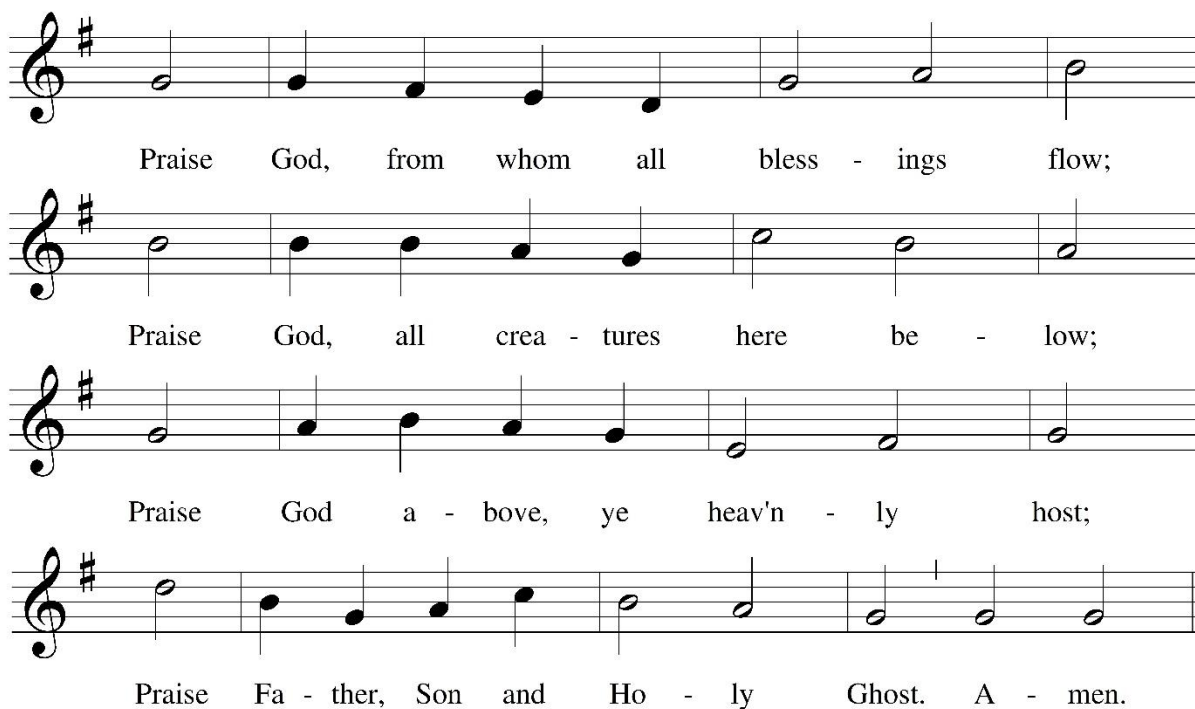
OFFERING AND ANTHEM

'Everyday I Will Bless You'
Setting, Raymond H. Haan

*I will extol you, my God, O King, and I will bless your name forever.
Everyday I will bless you. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
One generation, one generation shall praise your works to another,
and declare your mighty acts.*

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: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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

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 might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. 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

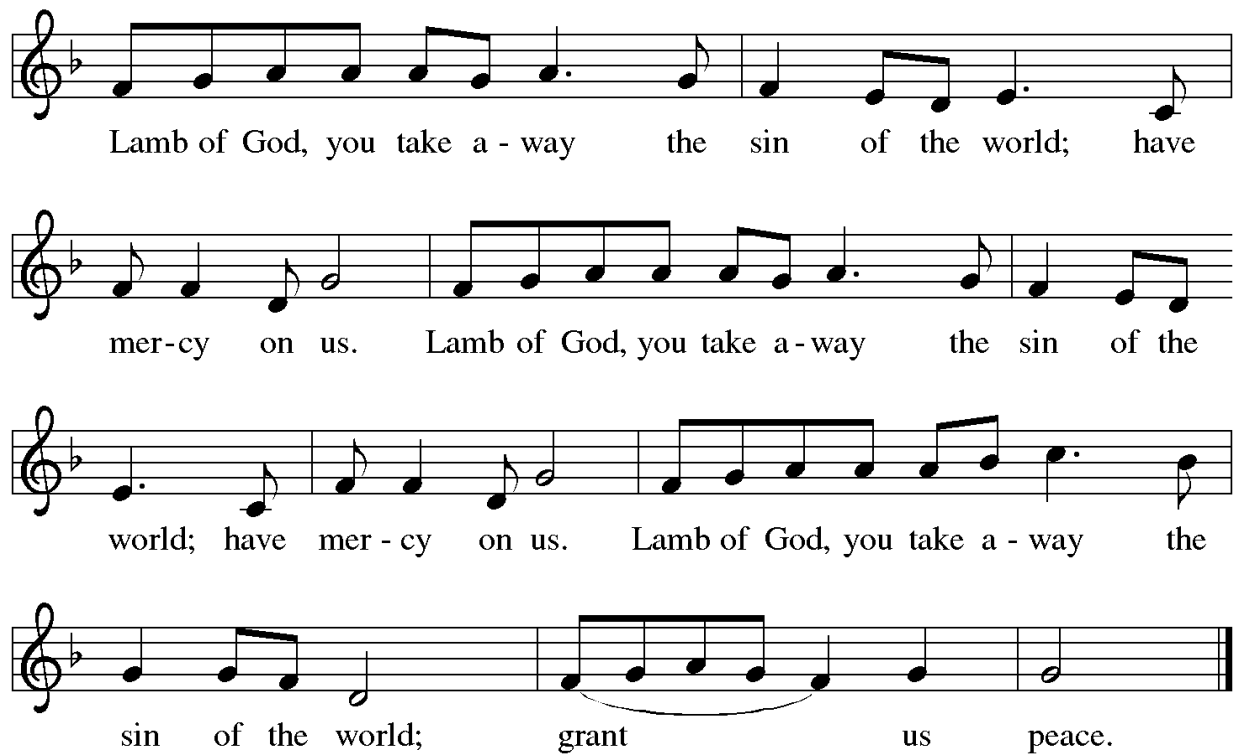
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

'Morning Has Broken'
arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

Lea Anne Thomas

COMMUNION HYMN

'Will You Let Me Be Your Servant'

ELW 659

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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

David Hord

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

‘Lord of All Hopefulness’

ELW 765

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....David Hord
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S

Acolytes.....Waylen Jarrett and Anson Ward
Crucifer.....Ashton Williams
Banner Bearer.....Landen Ryerson

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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
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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