



Title: The Lord of the Parables. Artist: Jorge Cocco Santangelo (b. 1936)

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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!

Buck-a -Meal - Every one-dollar bill placed in the offering boxes this morning goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Text Messaging is now available at St. John's! You can **Opt-In** to text messaging by scanning the QR code here to see **What's Happening at St. Johns?** You can receive important updates, reminders and announcements right on your phone. Stay informed. Stay connected.



Trick or Treat So Others May Eat – Oct 4, 11 & 18. Pick up a bag in the narthex after the service and fill with non-perishable items. **Filled bags must be returned by Oct. 25.** Proceeds will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries.

Catawba Singers – Today 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.

Hood Theological Seminary – Mondays, Oct. 5-Nov. 2 at 1 pm in Room 213. Join us for a thoughtful conversation on the book: “*Am I Just My Brain?*” authored by Sharon Dirckx. Facilitated by Trevor Eppheimer, Academic Dean at Hood Theological Seminary. Bring your own lunch and beverage. RSVP by scanning the QR Code here.



Flu Clinic – Oct. 7, 4-6 pm in Ritchie Hall. Flu shots available for ages 3 and up. High-dose available for ages 65+. Please bring your insurance card. Walgreens is partnering with us to provide the clinic.

Blessing of the Animals Celebration – Oct. 11, 2-3:30 pm in the St. John's Chapel Breezeway. We will celebrate the **Blessing of the Animals**. Bring your pets for a special time of thanksgiving and blessing as we rejoice in God's gift of creation and the companions who share their lives. **Cats must be in carriers and dogs on leashes.** If your pet doesn't travel well, bring a photo! They can still be blessed.

Men's Ministry Germanfest – new date - Oct. 16 at 5 pm, at the STJ Retreat Property, located at 220 Mockingbird Ln, Salisbury. ALL are welcome! Bring a chair and your own beverage.

New Members Class – Oct. 17, 9-11:30 am in the Goodman Dining Room. Take the next step at St. John's. Learn about our faith and heritage, our ministries, and the many ways you can grow, serve and belong. Sign up with the QR code here or via the Faith Life email.



Consecration Sunday Brunch – Oct. 18, 8:30-11 am in Ritchie Hall. Join us for our annual Celebration Brunch. Invitation cards are available online, in our literature racks, and the QR code here. If you forget to RSVP, we will follow up with a phone call.



Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God with gratitude, and in honor of Bonnie Patterson Hord for the blessing of having her as my partner for fifty years, by David Hord.



*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

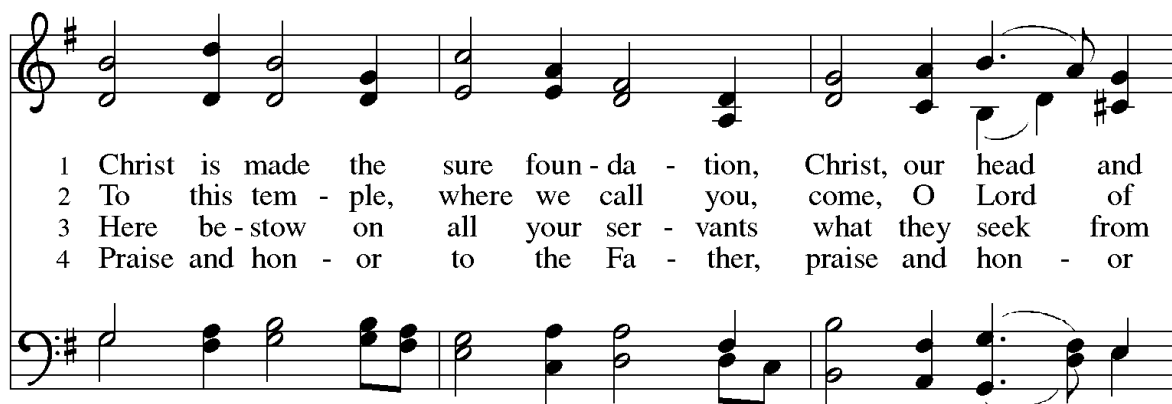
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

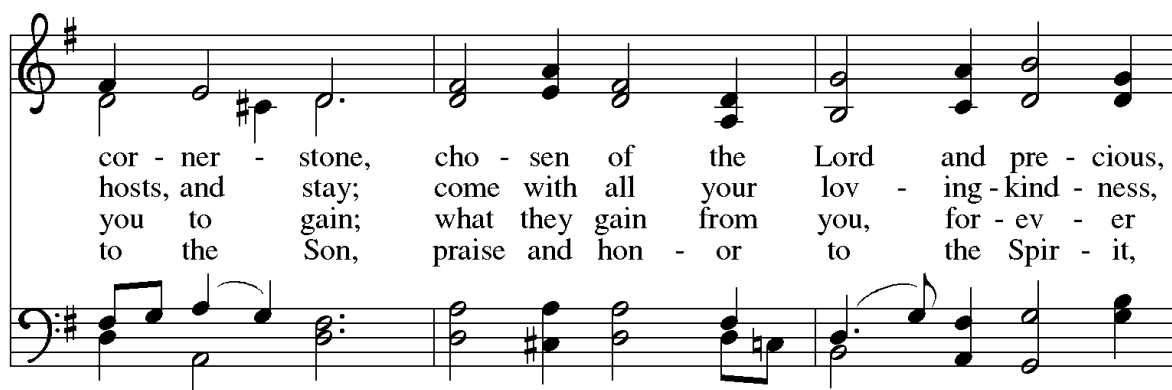
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.

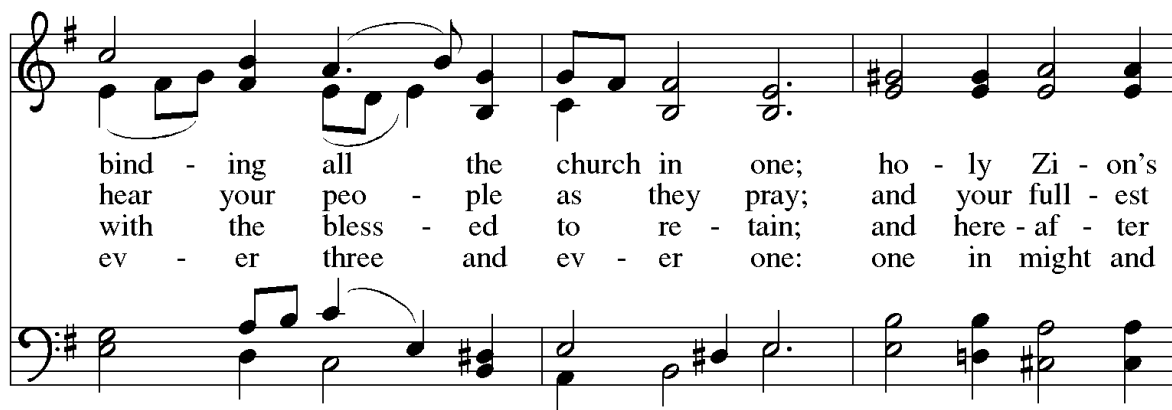
Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

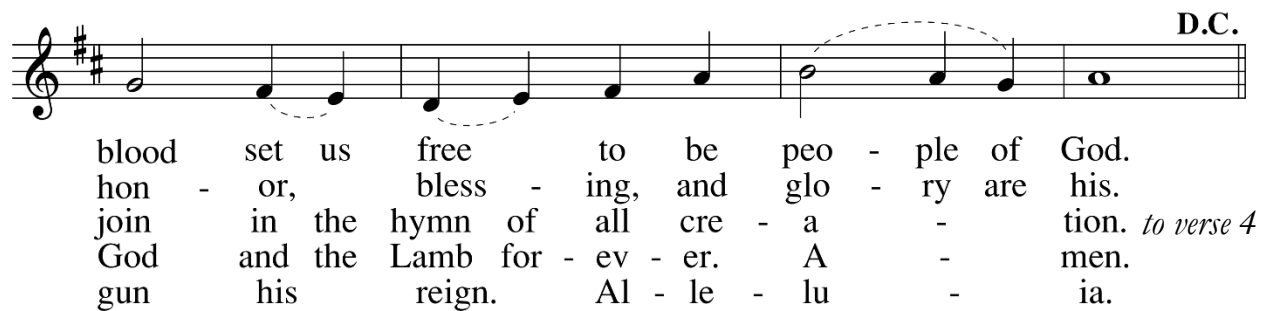
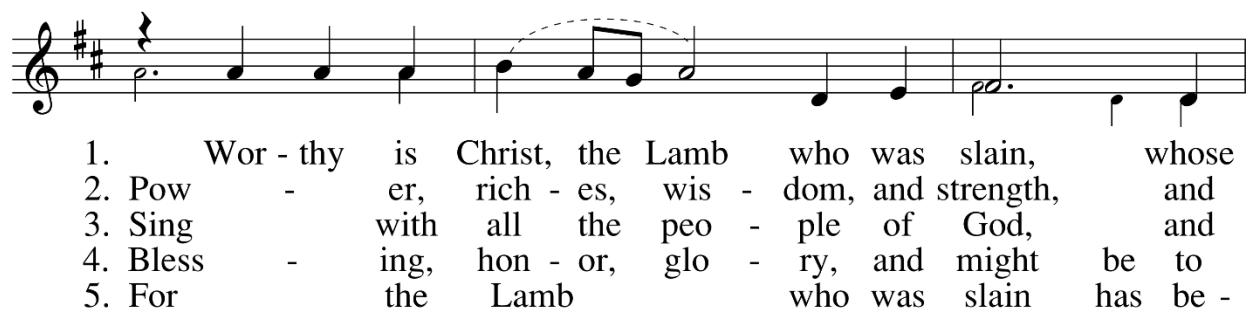
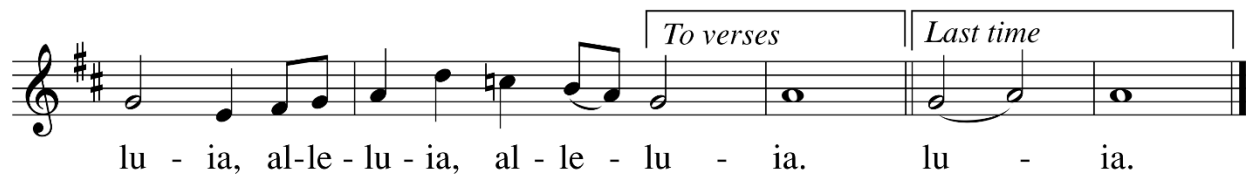


help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*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 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians, the 3rd chapter.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
 2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
 who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.
 whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.
 cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans-form-ing burn-ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
 Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
 Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,
 Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new-ness to ap - pear.
 for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh-old of new life.
 and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

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 $\dagger$ of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

'Come, Share this Feast of Love' By Lloyd Larson

Here is my body that's broken for you.
Come, share this feast of love.
There is the blood that I shed for you.
Come, share this feast of love.

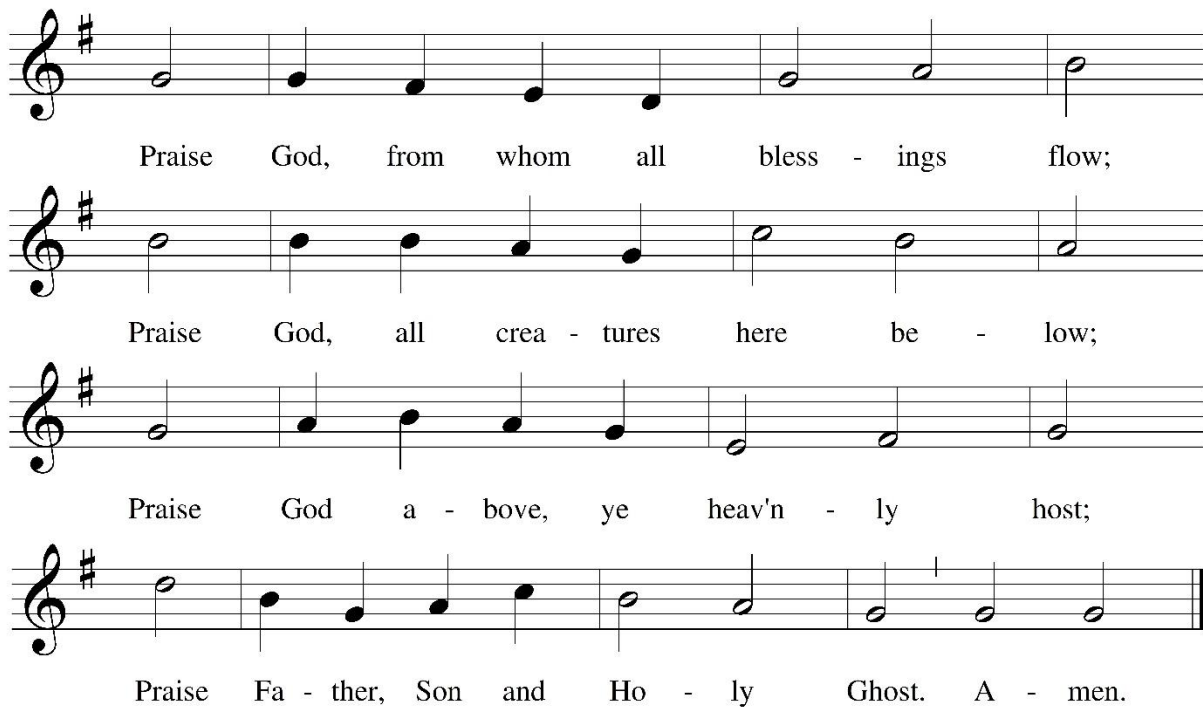
Come, come, come in prayer.
Bring your pain; bring your care.
Come, come, come in prayer,
Come, my child, and share.

Here is the life that I lived for you.
Come, share this feast of love.
Here is the life that I gave for you.
Come, share this feast of love.

Here is the peace that your soul has sought.
Come, share the feast of love.
Here is the peace that my dying bought.
Come, share this feast of love.

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

We 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

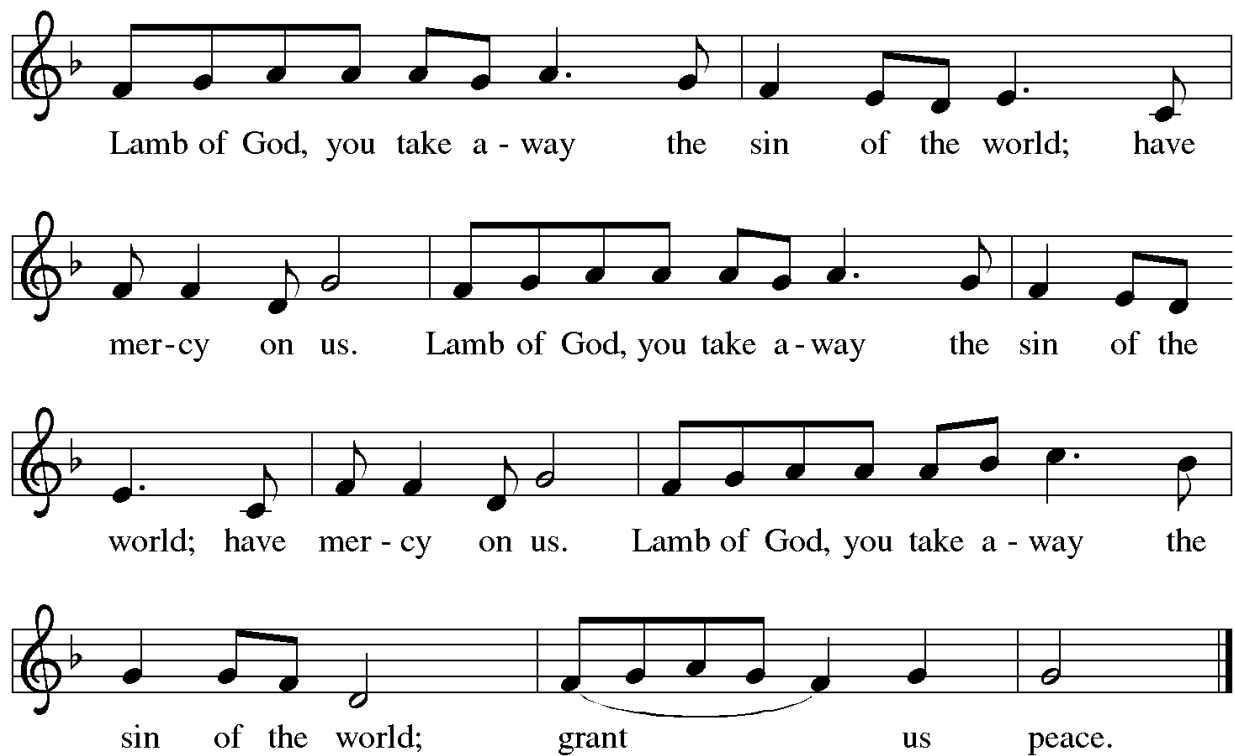
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at the altar. Please follow the usher's guidance. At the altar, bread is served (gluten-free by request), followed by wine (grape juice by request). 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.

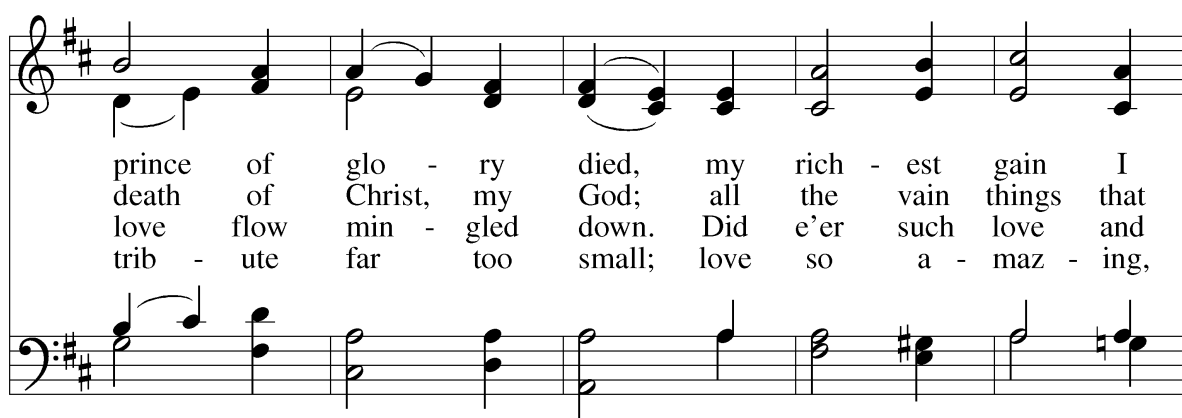
COMMUNION SONG

‘Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness’
Setting, Mark Limburg

Thom Hinson



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

We 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.**



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

'The Church of Christ'

ELW 729

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Patricia Holt
 Preacher and Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Emmett Stephenson and Cooper Charest
 Crucifer.....Jeffrey Stephenson
 Banner Bearer.....William Charest

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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

Director of Children, Youth and Families.....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.*