



Title: The Parable of the Great Banquet. Artist: Russian Icon (14th century).

20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 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 Animals Celebration – Today from 2-3:30 pm in the St. John's Chapel Breezeway. Cats must be in carriers and dogs on leashes or bring a photo! They can still be blessed.

Trick or Treat So Others May Eat – Oct 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.

Men's Ministry Oktoberfest – Oct. 16 at 5 pm, at the STJ Retreat Property, 220 Mockingbird Ln, Salisbury. ALL are welcome! Bring a chair, your own beverage and a side or dessert to share. RSVP with QR code here.



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.



The Path Forward – Oct. 17, 6 pm at the Norvell Theater in Salisbury. An Israeli and Palestinian Peacemaking Dialogue with a documentary screening and interfaith panel discussion. Admission is free. Contact Michael Connor with any questions at mjconnor1982@gmail.com.

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.



Senior Seasons Academy – Story Telling - Starts Oct. 20, Tuesdays 9:30 am – 2:30 pm in Ritchie Hall. "Let Me Tell You a Story..." Gathering time is at 9:30 am. Morning Sessions are from 9:30 – 11:15. Lunch is from 11:15 am – 12 pm and the Afternoon Sessions are from 12:15-2:30 pm. Contact Pastor Dan at Dan@stjohns-salisbury.org with any questions.

Festival Choir – You're invited to participate in our festival choir for Reformation Sunday (Oct. 25) and Lessons & Carols (Dec. 20). Rehearsal dates are Thurs., 6 pm (Rehearsal date), and Sun., 8 am (Performance date). Scan the QR code here to sign up!



3rd Grade Milestone – "Good News. God News." - Oct. 25 at 2 pm in the Ark. RSVP by Oct. 21 to Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Salisbury Symphony Brass Ensemble Concert – Oct. 25 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The Salisbury Symphony presents, "*Music of the Reformation*", featuring a brass quintet of Salisbury Symphony musicians. This event is free.

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.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in honor of Reggie Munday's 95th birthday and their 14th wedding anniversary, by Brenda and Reggie Munday.



*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. 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. to verse 4
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

D.C.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND STEWARDSHIP TALK

Mark Lewis

*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 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians, the 4th chapter.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

‘As We Gather’

ELW 522

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:

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

'Think on These Things'
By Mark Patterson
Liz Burns, Cellist

*Whatever is pure, whatever is true,
whatever is noble and just and good;
think on these things, live by these things,
rejoice together in these things,
and the God of peace will be with you.*

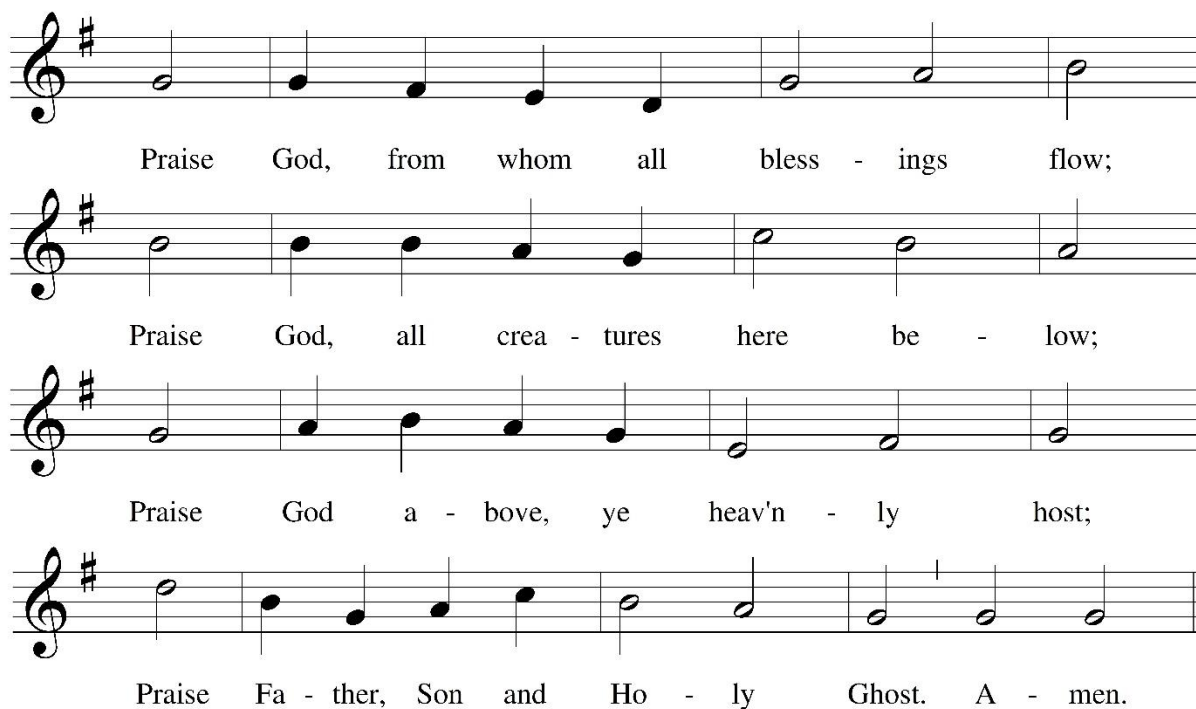
*All that's pure, all that's true,
all that's noble and just and good;
think on these things, live by these things,
rejoice together in these things,
and the God of peace will be with you.*

*When the cares of life confound you,
when the storms of doubt sweep in,
turn to God with all things in prayer,
and a peace beyond all knowing
will guard you and guide you.*

The God of peace will be with you.

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.

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.**

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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some rests. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

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

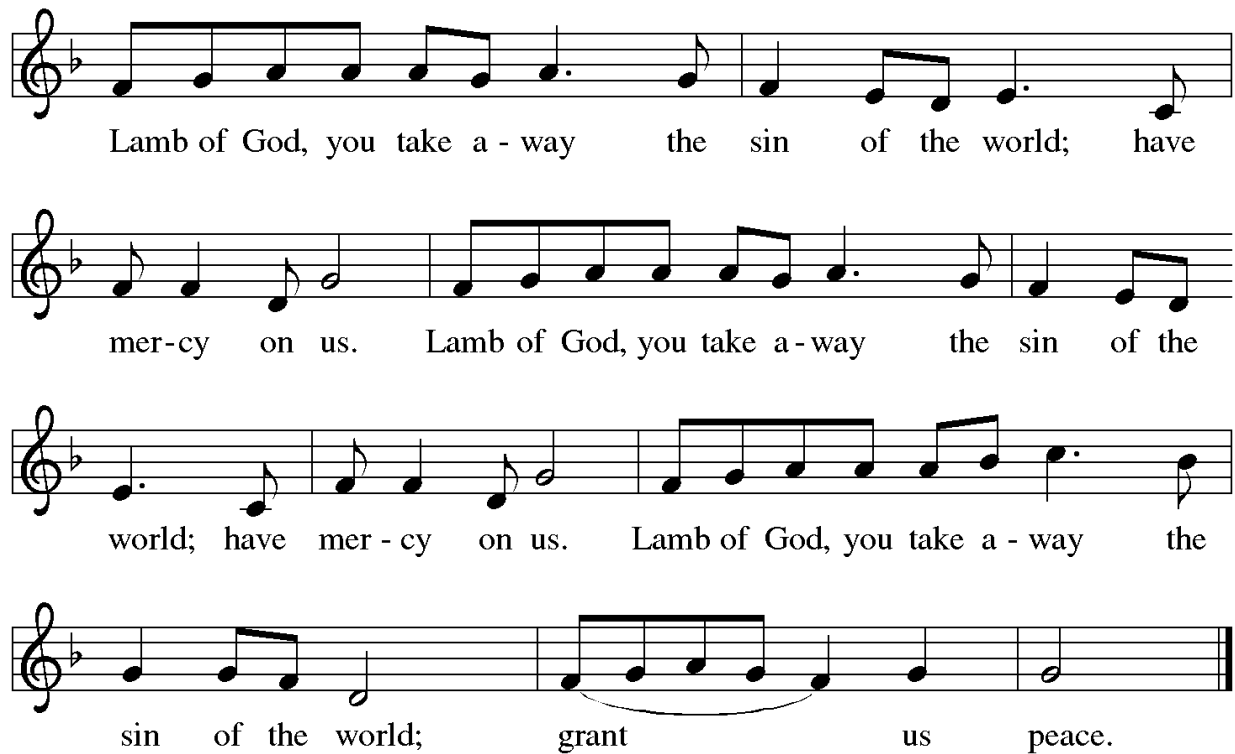
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

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

'Adoration'
Liz Burns, Cellist

by Florence Price

COMMUNION HYMN

'Around You, O Lord Jesus'

ELW 468

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

‘Sent Forth By God’s Blessing’

ELW 547

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Mitch Siegel
 Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
 Presider.....Pastor Spence Robertson
 Musicians.....Janie Rollins, Thom Hinson, Liz Burns (cello)

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....C.J. Sifford and Caleb Rathbun
Crucifer.....Brenden Sifford
Banner Bearer.....Benny Rathbun

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