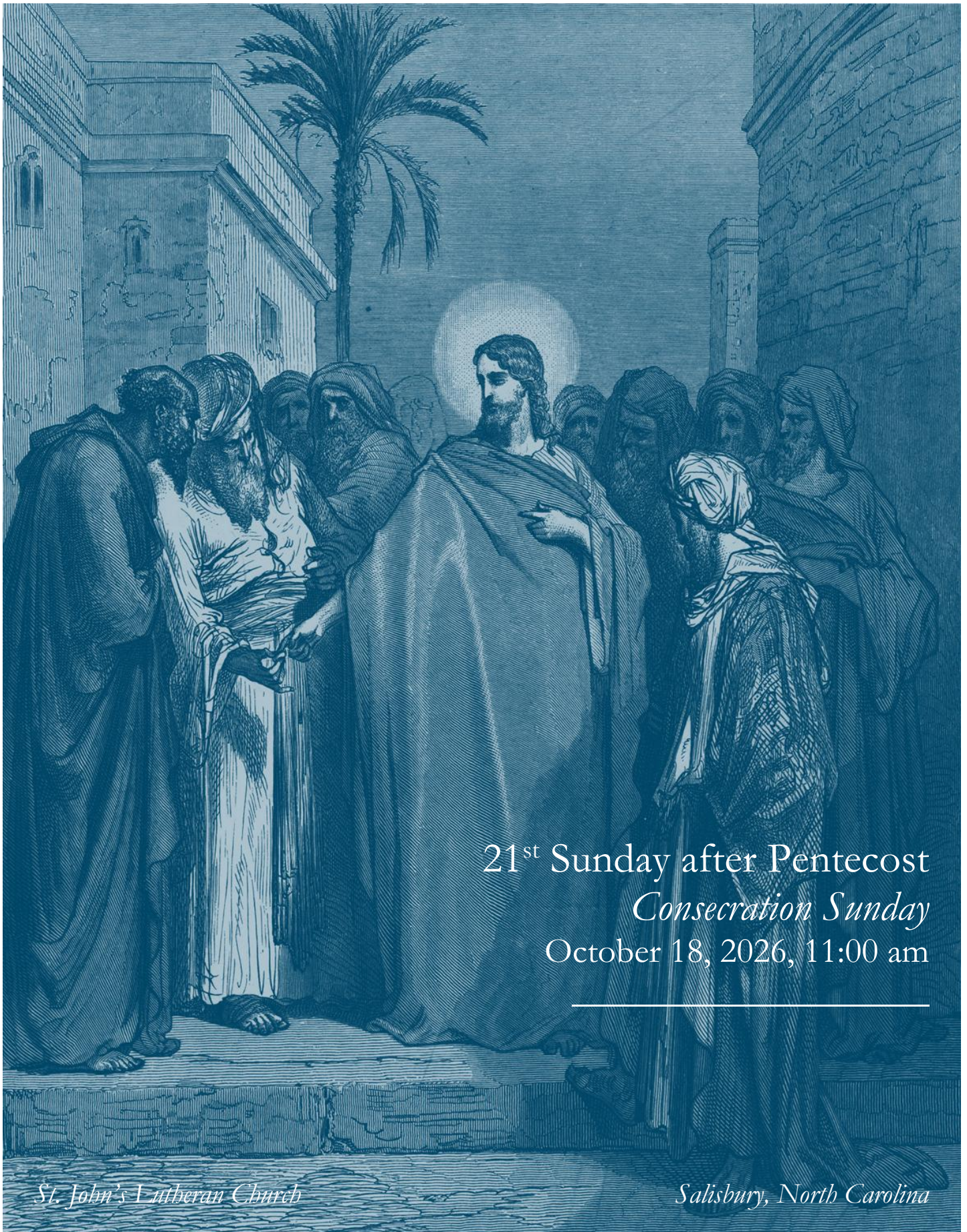




21st Sunday after Pentecost
Consecration Sunday
October 18, 2026, 11:00 am

St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

Title: Jesus and the Pharisee (1866). Artist: Gustave Doré (1832-1883).

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Consecration Sunday Preacher – Welcome Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Chaplain and Director of the Lilly Center for Vocation and Values at Catawba College. As Chaplain of the College, Pastor Kendra is in charge of religious life on campus and leads students as they discover purpose and calling in their lives.

Consecration of Pledge Cards – Members are encouraged to complete their Pledge card indicating their planned financial support for the ministries of St. John's in 2027. Cards were mailed to members late last month. Pledge Cards are available in the pew in front of you. Please bring your completed card and place it in the basket at the front of the nave when you come to receive Communion. *Thank you for your faithful generosity!*

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.

Reformation Day – Wear Red next week for Reformation Sunday! We will recognize this festive anniversary, when the fire of the Holy Spirit inspired the Reformers of the church, with special festive music and worship.

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

Festival Choir (9:27) – 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 (10/22 and 12/17), and Sun., 8 am (10/25 and 12/20). Scan the QR code here to sign up!



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.

Women’s Ministry – Game Night – Oct. 29, 6-8 pm in the Pit. Join us for a night of games, fun and fellowship! Games will be provided. Bring a snack to share. We will collect hats, gloves and socks for children and adults that will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries. Everyone can donate! Please bring your **donations to the church by Oct. 29.**

All Saints Sunday & Columbarium Dedication – Nov. 1. Immediately following the 11 am service we will meet at the Columbarium for a brief service of dedication.

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 with much gratitude, by St. John’s.



*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

**‘Make Music for the Lord’
Children’s Choir**

by Natalie Sleeth

**‘Clap Happy Psalm’
Children’s Choir**

arr. Joe Ridenour

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 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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 -

D.C.
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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1st Thessalonians, the 1st chapter.

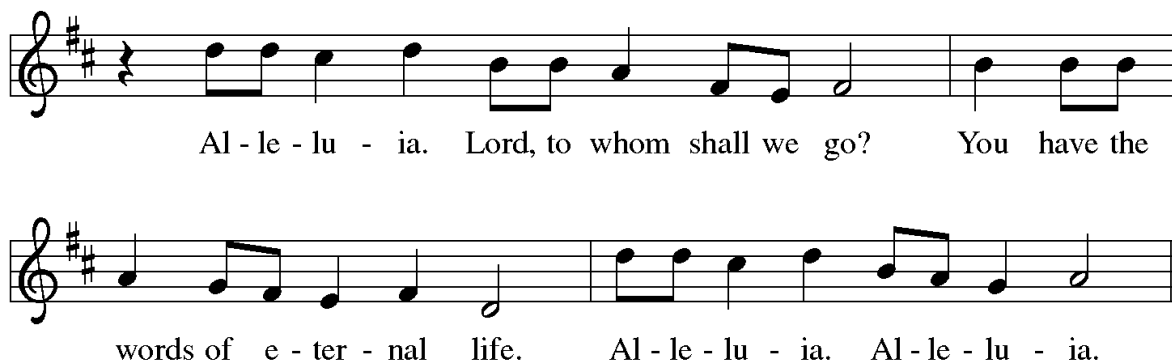
¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22



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

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Be seated.

SERMON

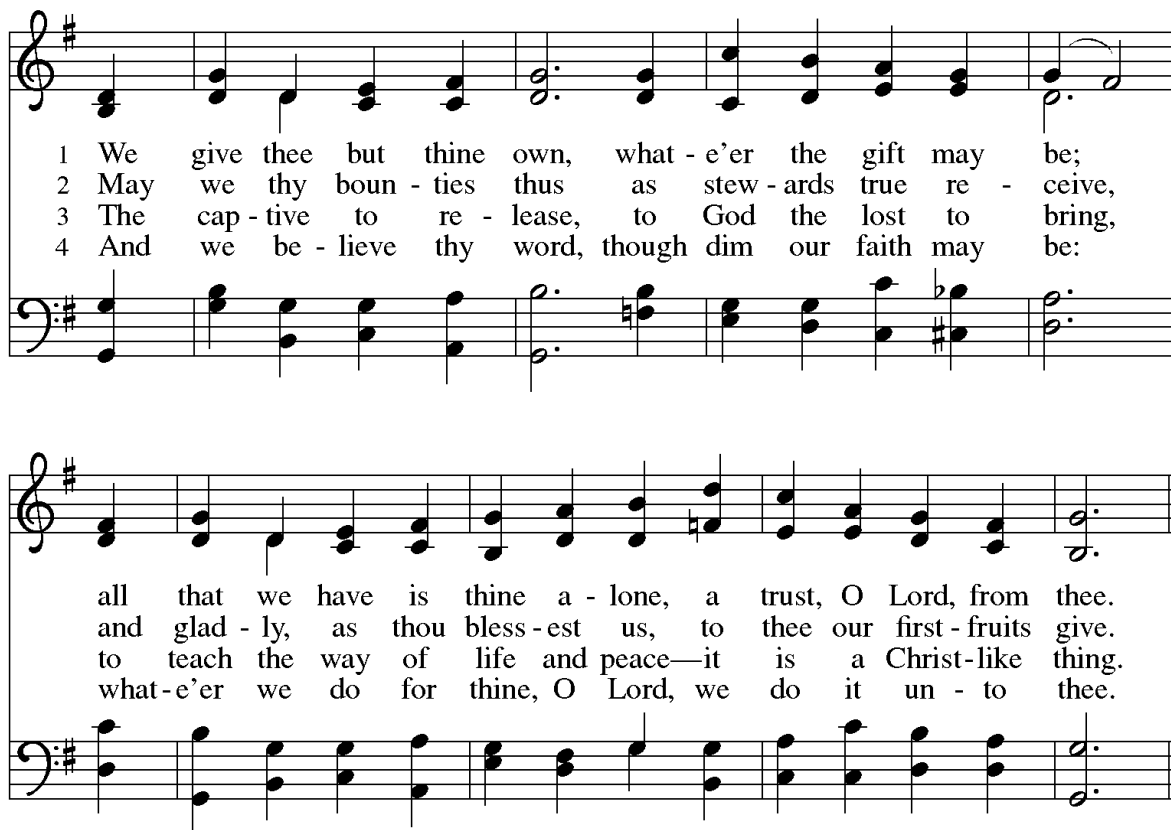
Pastor Kendra Joyner Miller

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

'We Give Thee but Thine Own'

ELW 686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

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

'Write Upon My Heart'

music, Jospeh M. Martin

text, David Angerman

*Write upon my heart, Lord Jesus.
Inscribe your name upon my life.
Starting me a sacred work.
Make my life an open book.
Let others know your truth through me.*

*Renew me, Lord, with your Spirit.
Planting me the Word of truth.
Let me reflect your love and grace
until I see you face to face.
Let me share your love and all I do!*

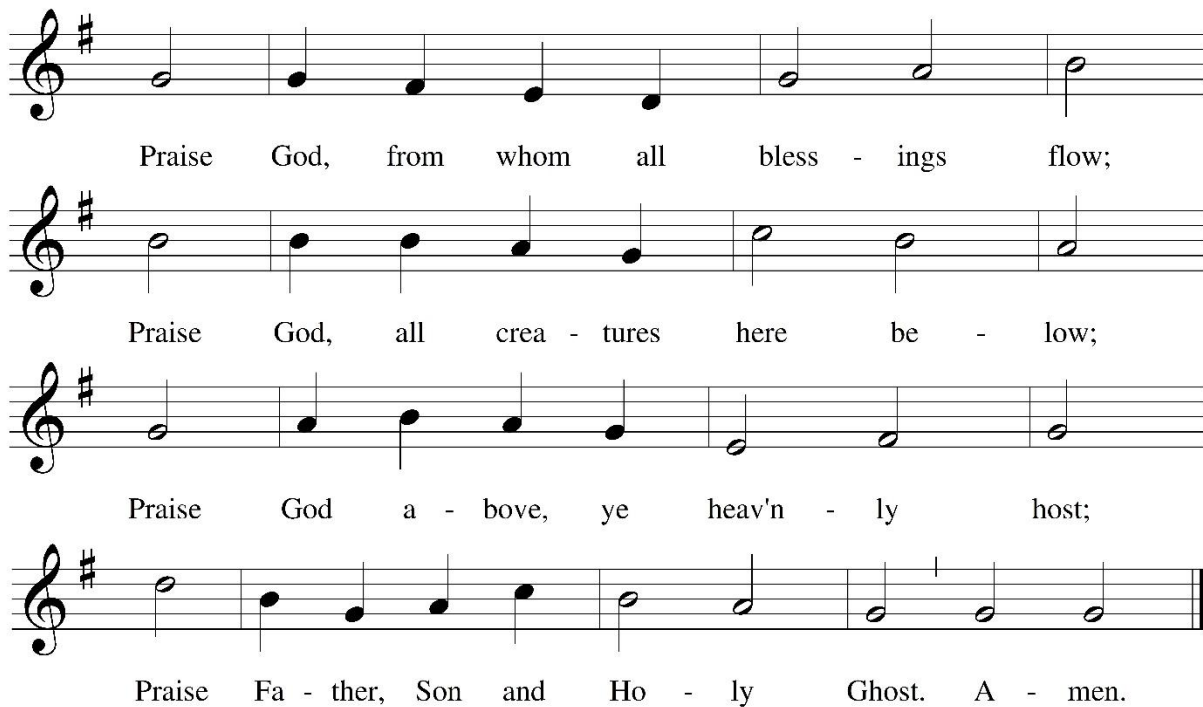
*Fill my life with praise, Lord Jesus.
Let your music echo through my soul.
Making me a living song.
Let it sound for you alone.
Let others share your love through me.*

*Paint upon my life, Lord Jesus.
Sculpt me as a Potter works the clay.
Make in me your work of art,
a reflection of your heart.
Let others see your love in me.*

*Let others know your truth, Lord Jesus.
Let others hear your voice, Lord Jesus.
Let others see your love in me.*

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.

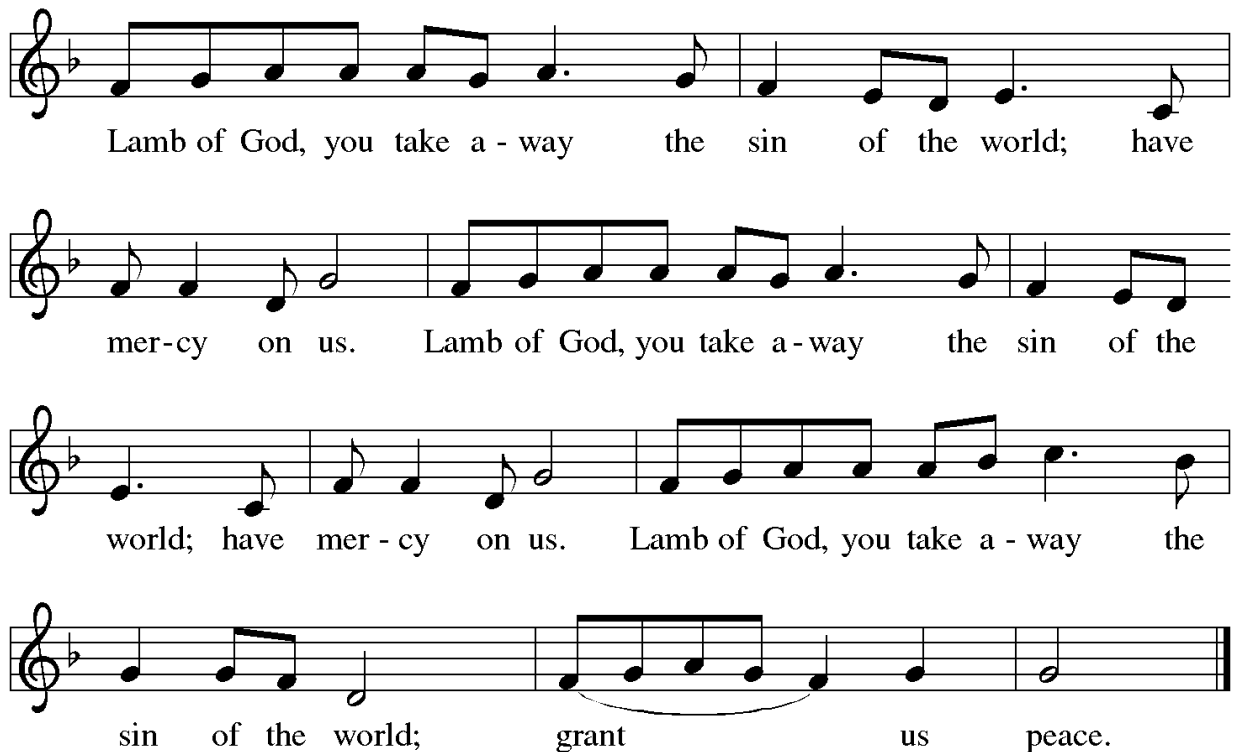
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

RECEPTION OF PLEDGE CARDS

Place your completed pledge card in the basket at the front of the center aisle as you come forward for Communion. We will consecrate them to the support of God's work through St. John's following Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

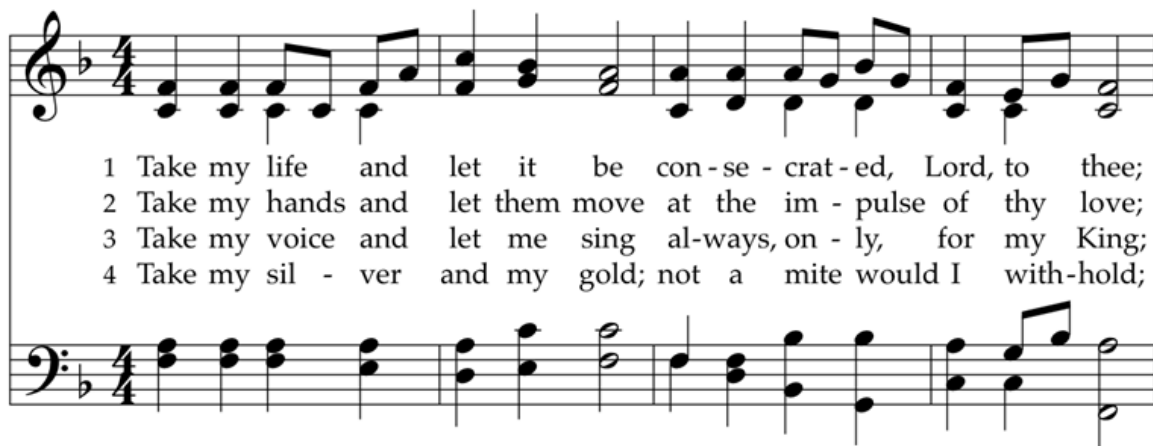


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

**‘Rejoice and Be Glad’
Luther Ringers**

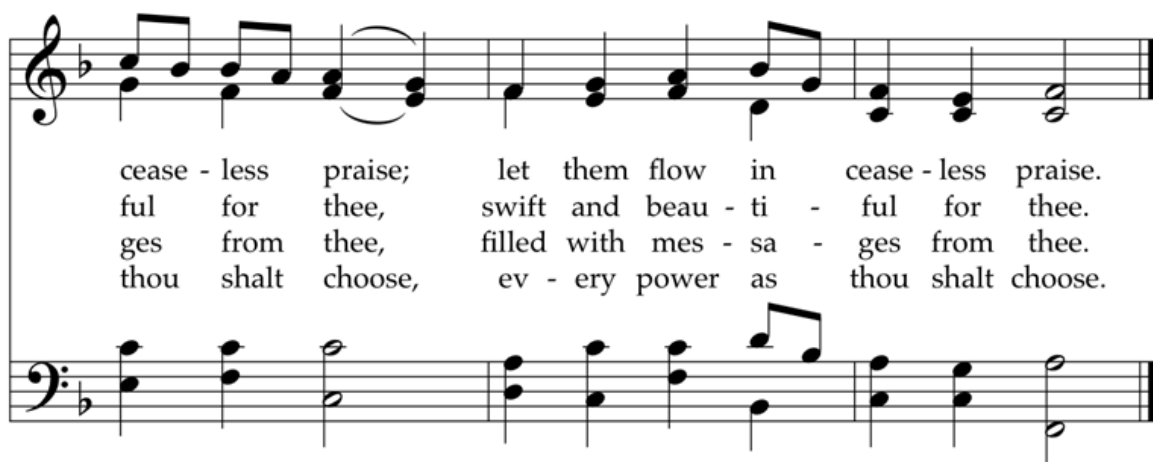
by Jason Krug



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

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.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We pray: Gracious and loving God, accept our pledges in grateful thanksgiving to you for your abundant grace in our lives and the redemption we have through Christ Jesus. Give us faith to recognize your work in our lives, give us joy in serving you, and lead us in the building up of faith in more and more people. We dedicate these pledges for your mission through St. John's during 2027 to you, O God, and to your glory alone, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

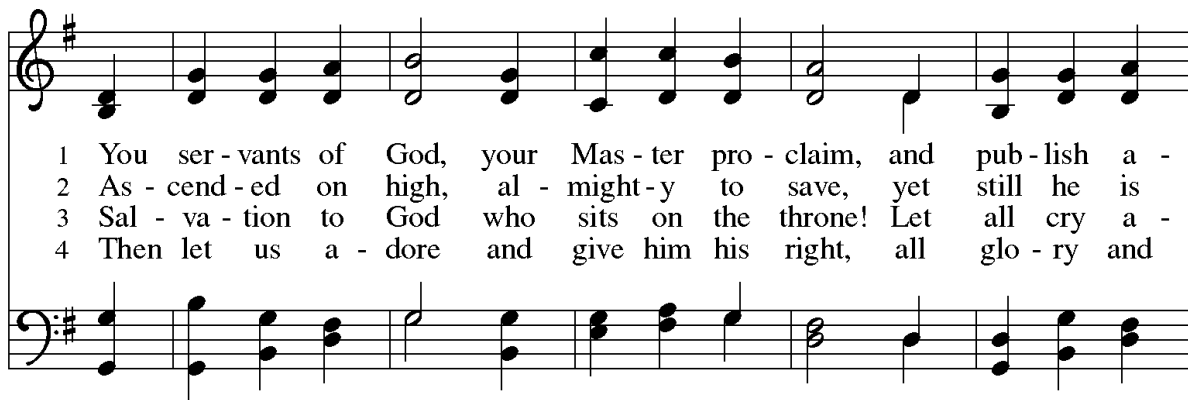


BLESSING

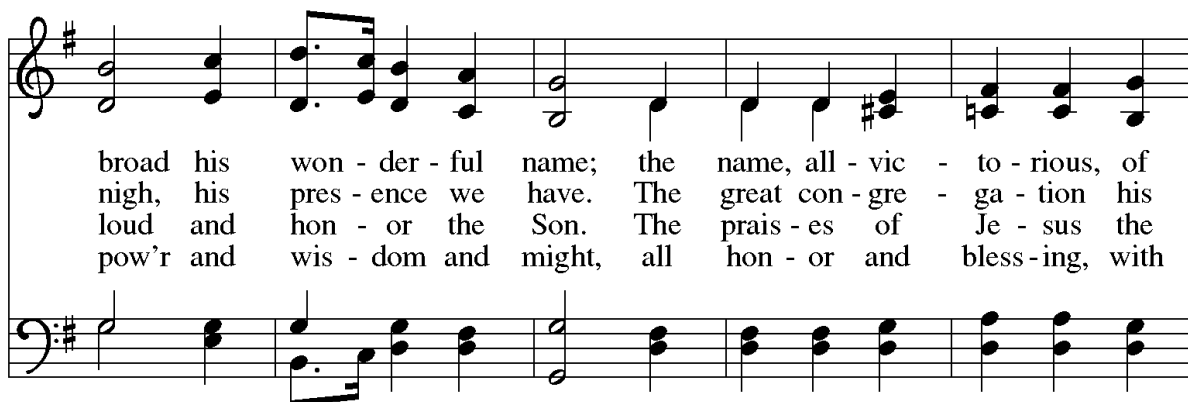
The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

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

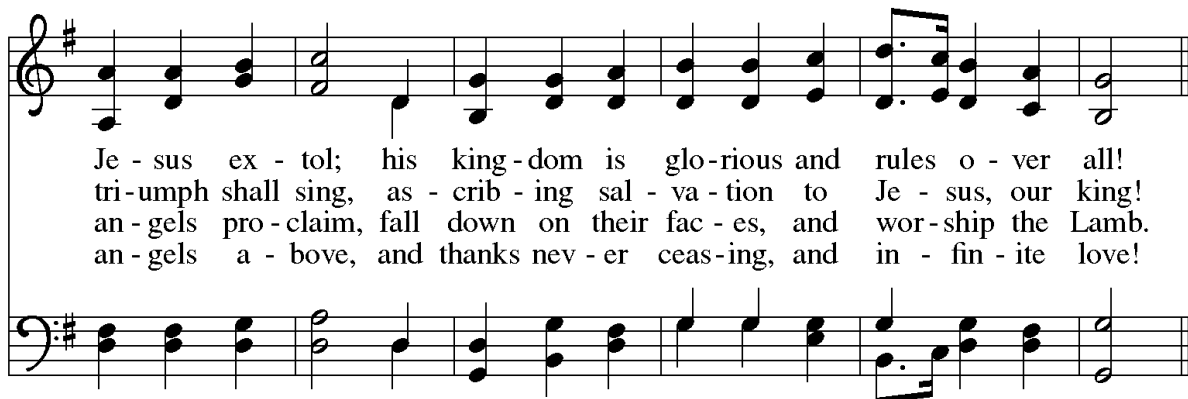
The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

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

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Dan Waggoner
Preacher.....Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel
Liturgist.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Jackson Williams and Finley Safrin
Crucifer.....Anelise Roy
Banner Bearer.....Hannah Jean Roy

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

