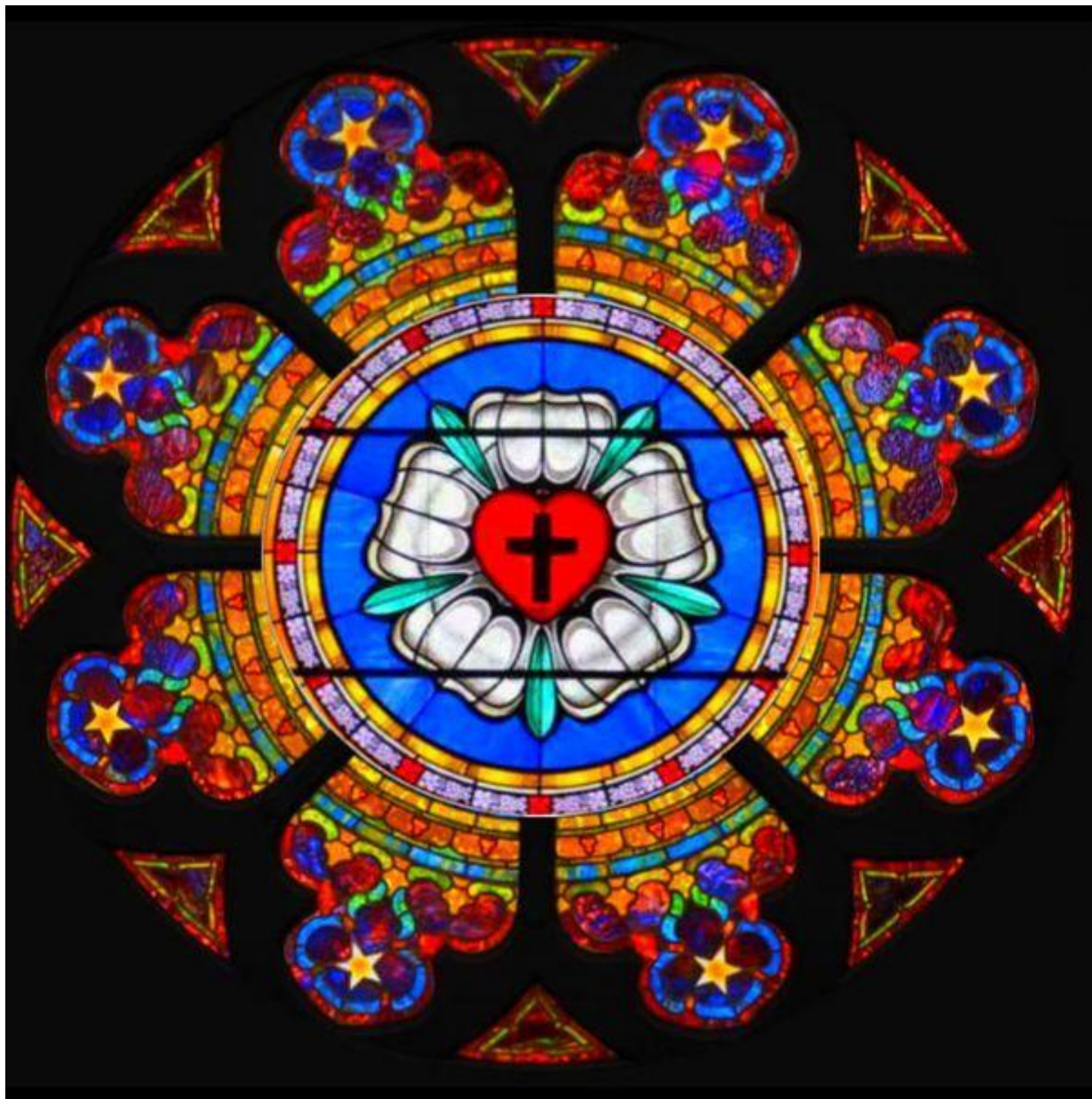




Reformation Sunday
3rd Grade Bible Milestone
October 25, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Annual Campaign – If you have not already done so, please complete your Pledge card as soon as possible so that we can finalize the 2027 budget and present it to the congregation. Scan the QR code here or visit our website: stjohns-salisbury.org/annual-campaign to make your pledge today. Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of St. John's!



Serenity Sisters – Today at 6 pm at Allyson Summitt's home, 729 S. Main GQ St., Granite Quarry, NC. Bring a snack to share and items for college care packages. RSVP encouraged to Penny Moss at pmoss@salisburyacademy.org.

Salisbury Symphony Brass Ensemble Concert – Tonight 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. Join us next Sunday as we commemorate All Saints Day. We will light candles at the altar for the dearly departed of our congregation. There will also be special time to pray at stations in the nave where you can light candles for the Saints in your life who have joined the church triumphant. **Immediately following the 11 am service we will meet in the Columbarium for a service of dedication.**

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of the Reformation, by Sam and Kaitlyn Mauldin.



*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

**‘Sonata from Die Bankelsangerlieder’
Brass Ensemble**

Anonymous

**‘Marche Triumphale’
Luther Ringers and Brass Ensemble**

by Michael Helman

*Prelude: music prepares
hearts and minds for
worship, creating a space
for prayer and reflection
before the service begins
(Psalm 150:3–6, “Praise
him with trumpet
sound... let everything
that breathes praise the
Lord!”).*

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,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

*Confession and
Forgiveness: we honestly
name our sin and hear
God’s promise of mercy,
renewing our relationship
with God and one
another. The confessional
response is from Luther’s
Prayers, written in 1524.*

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into
the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the
name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

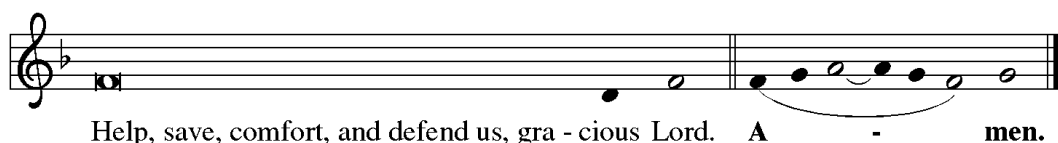
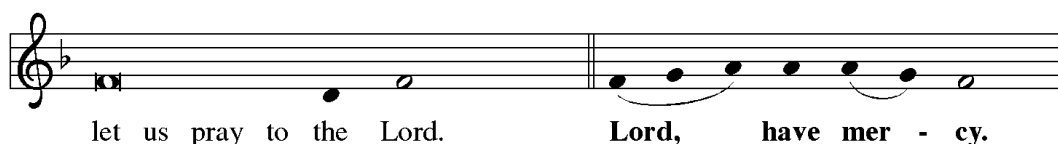
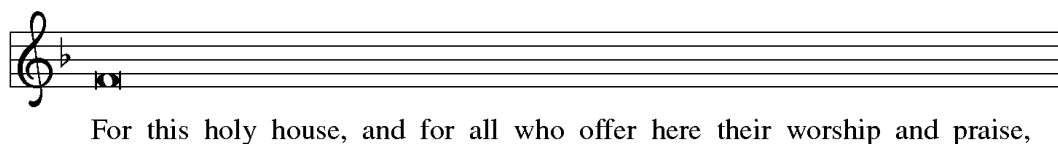
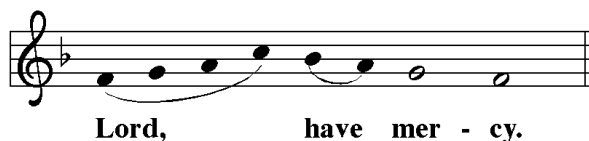
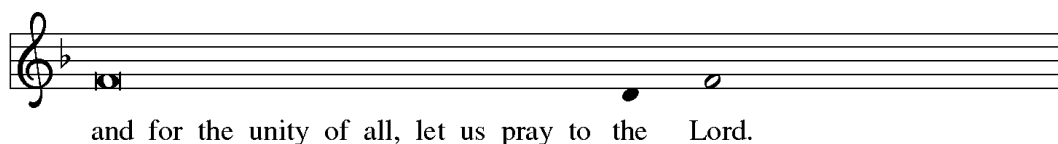
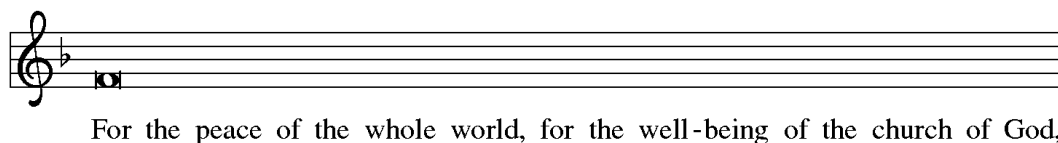
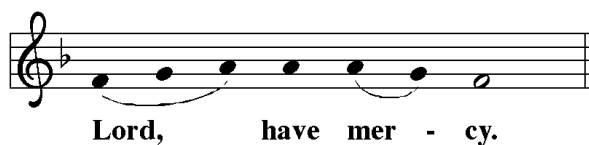
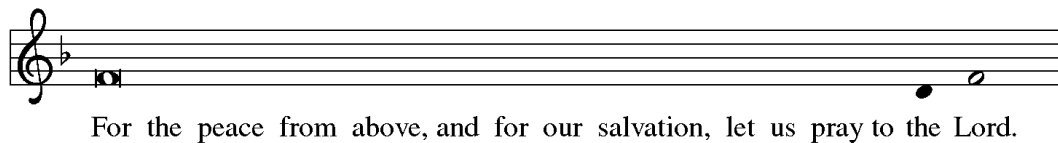
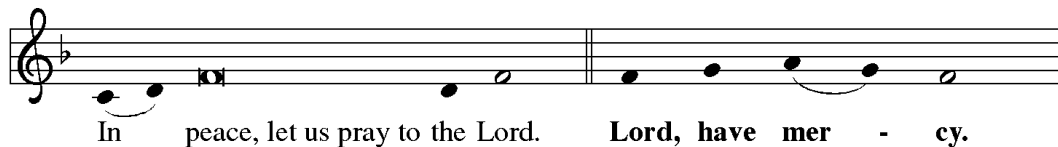
‘A Mighty Fortress’

ELW 504

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.

KYRIE



Gathering Hymn: in receiving forgiveness, we sing together as worship unfolds, uniting our voices in praise, drawing closer into God's presence (Psalm 100:2, "Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.").

"A Mighty Fortress" was written by Dr. Martin Luther, a German reformer, preacher, translator of Scripture, and prolific writer and composer. Based on Psalm 46, this hymn has often been called "the battle hymn of the Reformation," although its origin is unclear. Some theories suggest it served as a hymn of comfort during the Peasants' Revolt, an outpouring of Luther's inner struggles—possibly due to the death of his daughter Elizabeth—or a response to a plague outbreak in Wittenberg.

Greeting: these words of grace remind us of God's presence and our unity in Christ (2 Corinthians 13:13 – "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ... be with all of you.").

Kyrie: Greek for "Lord have mercy," is a prayer calling on God's compassion (Mark 10:47, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!").

THIS IS THE FEAST



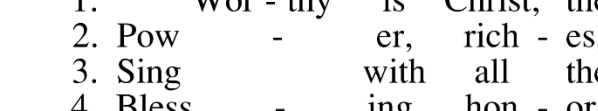
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Canticle of Praise or
This is the Feast: is a
joyful response to God's
saving work, (Revelation
5:13, "to the one seated
on the throne and to the
Lamb be blessing and
honor and glory and
might forever and ever!").*

Prayer of the Day: this prayer gathers the themes of the day's Scripture readings and prepares us to hear God's Word.

We pray: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND 3RD GRADE BIBLE MILESTONE

*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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from Ecclesiastes, the 3rd chapter.

¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

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

GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36

*Scripture Reading:
following a three-year
lectionary cycle, we
hear of the fullness of
the salvation story,
encountering the
living God
(John 5:39; Luke
24:27).*

*Gospel Acclamation:
welcomes the Gospel,
celebrating Christ's
presence in the Word
(John 6:68, "Lord,
to whom can we go?
You have the words
of eternal life.").*

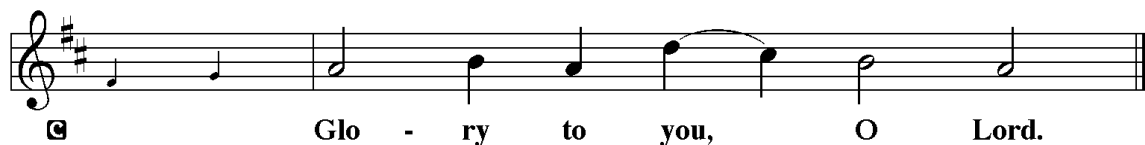
*Sermon: Martin
Luther writes, "a
Christian
congregation should
never gather together
without the
preaching of God's
Word," that the
"one thing" that is
"needful" is to sit at
the feet of Jesus and
hear his teaching
daily. Preaching
brings God's word
into our time and
place to awaken and
nourish faith.*

*Hymn of the Day: a
central hymn reflects
the Scripture and
sermon, allowing the
congregation to
respond to and
proclaim the gospel
through song.*

*We rise as the gospel is processed into the nave.
The organist will improvise an extended introduction.*

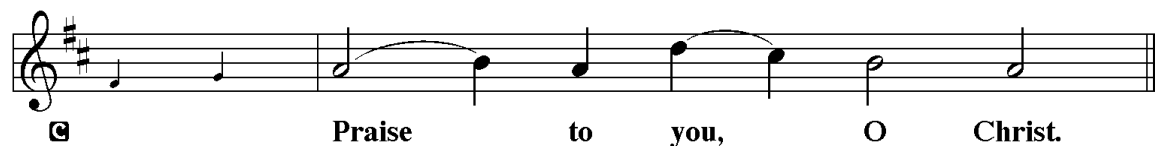


The Holy Gospel according to John.



³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor James Demmel

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

'My Hope Is Built'

ELW 597

Creed: Latin for "credo," meaning, "I believe." To "confess" means to make a declaration of what one believes. When we confess the faith of the Christian church in the words of the Apostles' Creed, we are confessing our belief in the Holy Trinity, and what God has done for us.

Prayers of Intercession: we pray for the church, the world, and those in need, trusting God hears and responds to our cries (Philippians 4:6, "In everything by prayer and supplication... let your requests be made known to God.").

Peace: we share Christ's peace with one another (John 20:19-23), affirming reconciliation and unity before approaching the table (Matthew 5:23-24, "So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift").

APOSTLES' CREED

Gathered as God's people across time and space, 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.*



Please be seated.

OFFERING

In response to God's grace proclaimed, we gather our gifts to offer them to God and to use in God's mission. All are invited to participate in God's mission either by placing your offering in the offering plate, scanning the QR Code provided, or giving online at stjohns-salisbury.org.



ANTHEM

'We Believe' by Dan Forrest

*We believe in God Supreme,
Ever present, never seen;
God Most High, who reigns above;
Father nigh, whose name is Love.
We whose prayers to God ascend
Praise creation's Source and End.*

*We rejoice in Jesus Christ-
God's own Son, our Sacrifice;
Very God, yet virgin born;
Sinless, yet for sinners torn.
We whom Jesus died to win
Know He lives to come again.*

*We adore the Spirit free-
Author of our unity.
Giver of the sacred Word,
Wellspring of the second birth.
We whom He indwells and fills
Yield our hearts and minds and wills.*

*We, the Church, affirm our faith
In the Triune God of grace;
Kingdoms fall and ages change;
Faithful, changeless, God remains!
One in Christ, we lift one voice!
We believe, and we rejoice!*

Anthem: is a choral piece of music that accompanies the gathering of gifts, expressing continued proclamation of the word or theme of the day, our gratitude and devotion (Psalm 96:8, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering...").

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,' accompanies the presentation of the gifts. This brief doxology (liturgical formula for praising God) is perhaps most recognizable piece of music throughout the Christian world.

Offering Prayer: we dedicate our gifts and ourselves to God's service with a brief prayer of thanksgiving (2 Corinthians 9:11, "You will be enriched... for your generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God.").

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.**

Great Thanksgiving: through the centuries, The Lord's Supper has been known as the Eucharist, meaning "to give thanks." Appropriately, the first words of our communion liturgy are words of thanksgiving (Psalm 107:1, "O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good...").

Preface: summarizes God's salvation story, prompting a musical response to the works of God proclaimed.

Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy"): we join the angels and saints in praising God's holiness and glory as we prepare for communion (Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts...").

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

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 the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so, with the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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

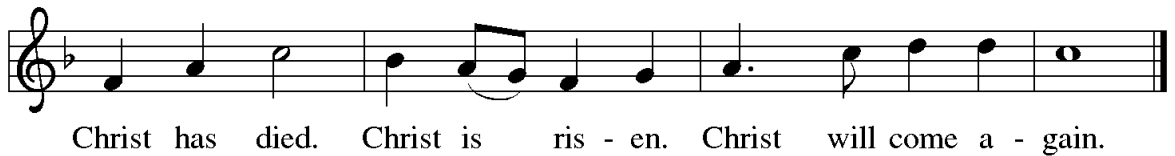
Thanksgiving at the Table: recalls God's saving deeds and Jesus' words at the Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, "Do this in remembrance of me...").

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

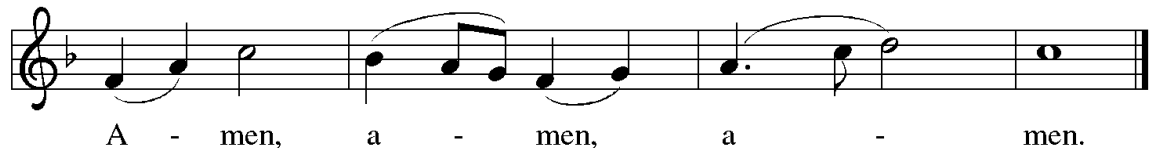
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer: we pray the prayer Jesus taught, seeking God's kingdom, daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance (Matthew 6:9–13, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...").

Invitation to Communion: all baptized are invited to the table, where Christ gives himself in bread and wine for life and forgiveness (Matthew 26:26–28, "Take, eat; this is my body... drink... this is my blood...").

Communion Distribution: the congregation receives the body and blood of Christ, a foretaste of the feast to come (John 6:51, "I am the living bread... whoever eats this bread will live forever...").

Lamb of God: focuses the congregation's attention on Jesus Christ as the sacrificial Lamb, whose death takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29, "Behold, the Lamb of God...").

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

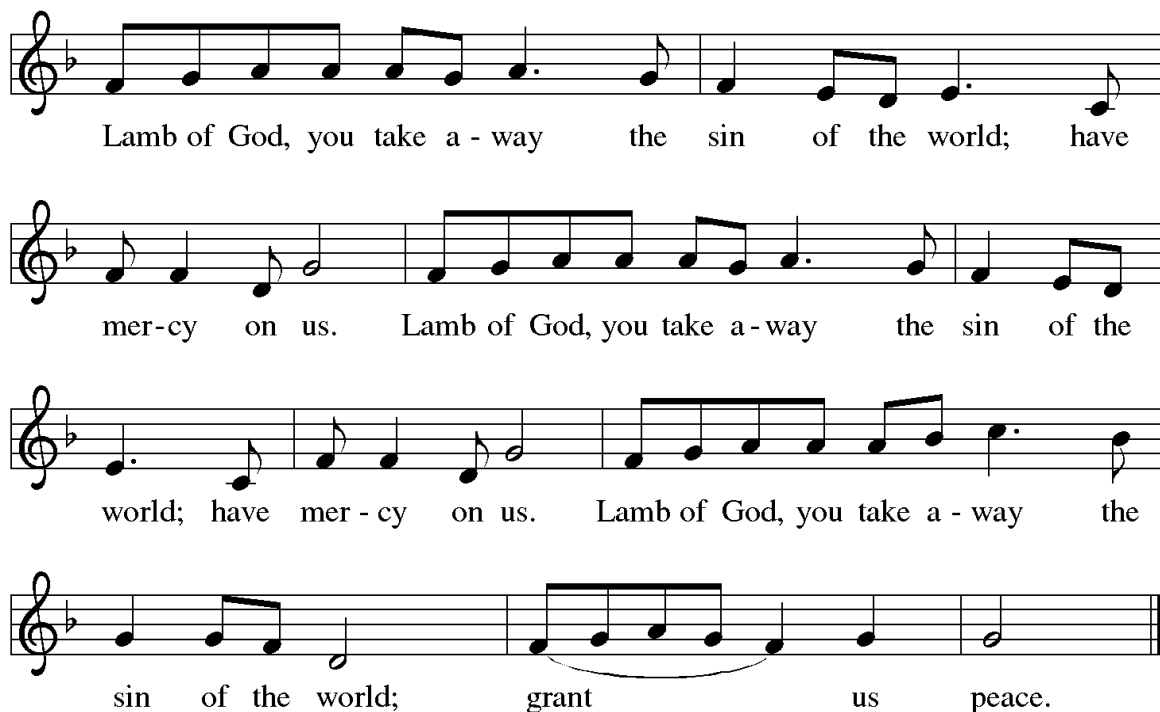
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

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

'Courant Dolorosa from Battle Suite' Brass Ensemble

Samuel Scheidt

COMMUNION HYMN

'Founded on Faith'

ACS 1048



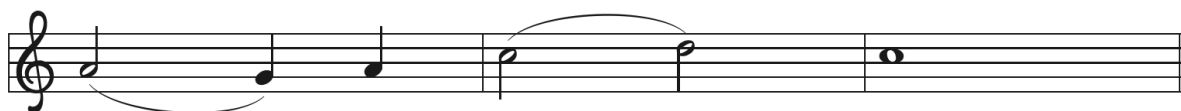
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber

Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.**

*Post-Communion*

Blessing: affirms God's gifts received in the sacrament.

Post-Communion Prayer:

we thank God for this meal and pray for strength to love and serve in the world (Psalm 103:2, "Bless the Lord... and do not forget all his benefits.").

Blessing: God's presence

and promise are spoken over the people as they prepare to go into the world (Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds...").

Sending Hymn: a final

hymn of praise and encouragement sends us forth with joy and purpose (Psalm 95:1, "O come, let us sing to the Lord...").

Dismissal: we are sent to

love and serve the Lord in daily life. The congregation boldly responds (Matthew 28:19–20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...").

Postlude: music

accompanies the congregation into the world in joy and peace (Psalm 98:4, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth...").

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**'Christ Is Made'****ELW 645****DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

'Galliard Battaglia from Battle Suite'
Brass Ensemble

Samuel Scheidt

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Colton Mienke
Preacher.....Pastor James Demmel
Presider.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....Cooper Charest and Emmett Stephenson
Crucifer.....Jeffrey Stephenson
Banner Bearer.....Will Charest
Torch Bearers.....Abi Kozlowski and Elli Kozlowski
Bible Bearer.....Gabriel Shafer

INSTRUMENTALIST

Trumpets..... Luke Boudrealt, Samuel Santiago
Horn.....Tim Papenbrock
Trombones.....Charlie Fisher, Aleksandr Witt
Timpani.....Jon Kirk

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

704.636.3431 | stjohns-salisbury.org



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