

Title: The Ten Young Women (1973). Artist: JESUS MAFA.

24th Sunday after Pentecost

New Members with Farewell and Godspeed

November 8, 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!

New Members Sunday—Join us in welcoming our new members: (11 am) - Phillip Burgess and Daryl Bruner; David and Linda Heilig; David and Jody Hood; Tom and Diane Harmer; (927) - David and Avery Andrews (daughter, Sutton).

Annual Campaign - Please complete your Pledge card as soon as possible so that we can finalize the 2027 budget and present it to the congregation (stjohns-salisbury.org/annual-campaign). Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministries of St. John's!

Serenity Sisters – Nov. 12, 6 pm – Arandas Grill & Bar, 127 S. Main St., Salisbury, NC. RSVP encouraged to Penny Moss at pmoss@salisburyacademy.org.

Thomas Keesecker Concert – Nov. 13 at 6 pm in the Faith Center. Join us for a live music concert with Thomas Keesecker, a choral music award winner, organist and composer.

Kindergarten Milestone *"Seasons of the Church Year"* – **Nov. 15 at 2 pm in the Ark.** RSVP to Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org, by Nov. 11.

Wednesday Evening Vesper Service—Nov. 18 at 6 pm in the Chapel—Join us after our Wednesday night meal for an evening worship service.

Confirmation Sunday - Unity Service is Nov. 22 at 10 am – We will worship together in **ONE service** in the sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate an important milestone in the lives of our confirmands.

Hanging of the Greens - **Nov. 22 from 2-5 pm in the Sanctuary and Nov. 29 in the Faith Center, immediately following the 927 service.** We are inviting the congregation to participate in the "Hanging of the Greens." This event helps us begin decorating our church campus for Advent. Participants may want to bring work gloves to help fluff the tree! Evening help needed from 11/30-12/3. Contact Marian Schouweiler at mlhough17@gmail.com for details.

Christmas Traditions - Join us **Nov. 22, 5-7 pm**, at The Vista at Walnut Hill for our annual Christmas Traditions event. You'll enjoy Advent wreath making and more! Sign up by scanning the QR code below, via FaithLife or on our website.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Anne Loeblein, by Bob Loeblein.

EVENT SIGN-UPS AND MORE ARE NOW IN ONE LOCATION – By scanning the QR code here, it will give you instant access to our giving portals, digital connect cards, enter prayer requests and various event sign-ups. Try it now!

GATHERING

Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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 **'The God of Abraham Praise'** **Mitchell Eithun**
The Joyful Ringers

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 dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **'Come We That Love the Lord'** **ELW 625**

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: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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 **Amos 5:18-24**

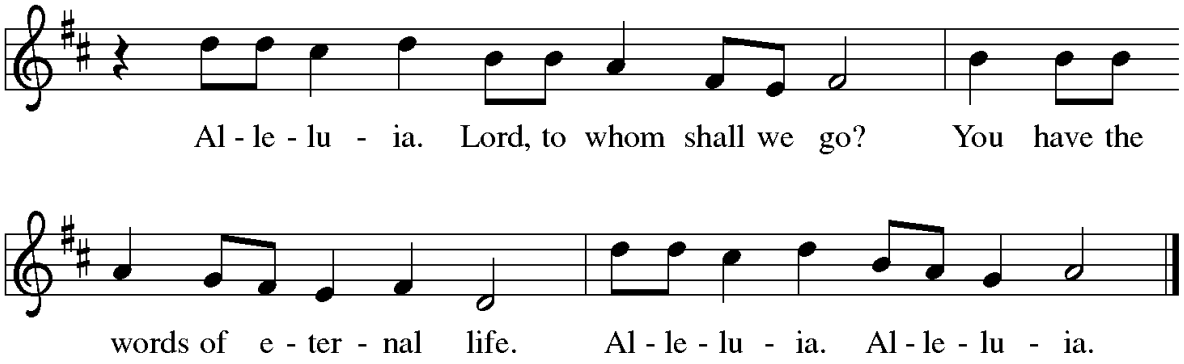
A reading from Amos, the 5th chapter.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is
darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house
and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness,
not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no
delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain
offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not
look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your
harps. 24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:1-13**



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were

wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Be seated.

SERMON **Pastor Dan Joyner Miller**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Remained seated.

BAPTISMAL SONG **'Baptized and Set Free'** **ELW 453**
Stanzas 1, 2, 3 (Stanza 4 sung later)

New Members come forward during the 3rd Stanza.

PRESENTATION AND PROFESSION

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so, say, *I renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? If so, say, *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers
and pray for them in their life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

We pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

We rise.

BAPTISMAL SONG **'Baptized and Set Free'** **ELW 453**
Stanza 4

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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 **'Keep Your Lamps'**
arr. Andre Thomas

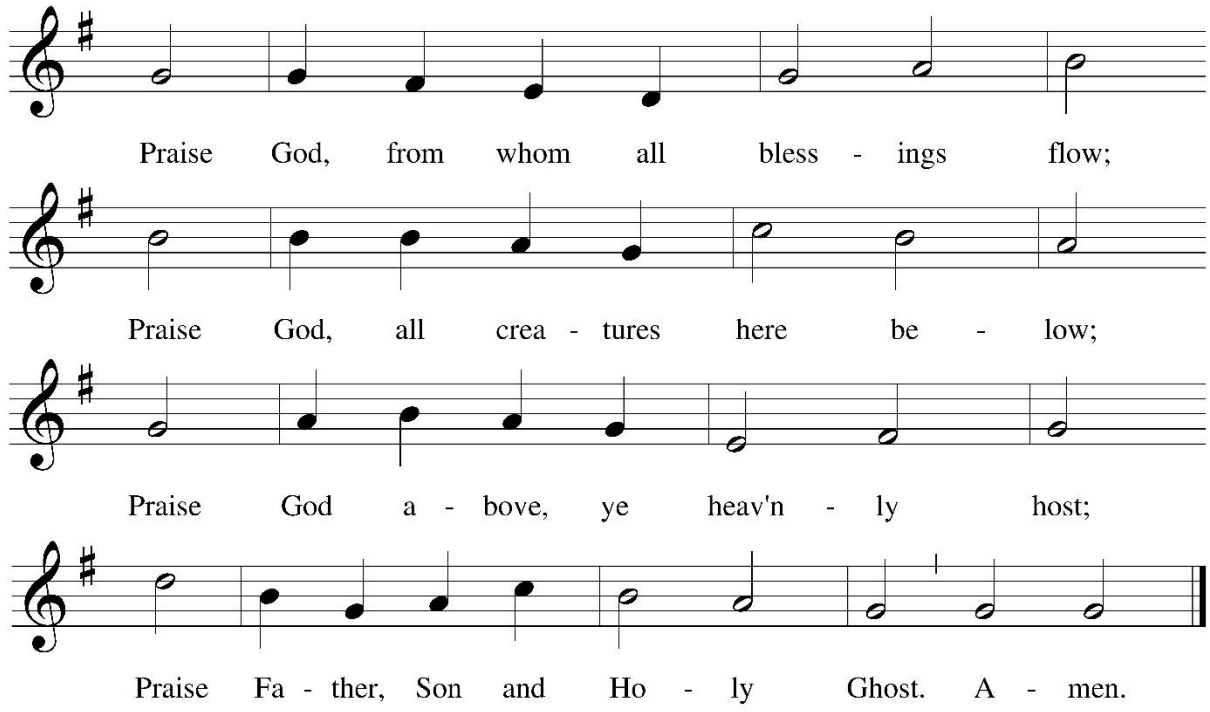
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary
'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



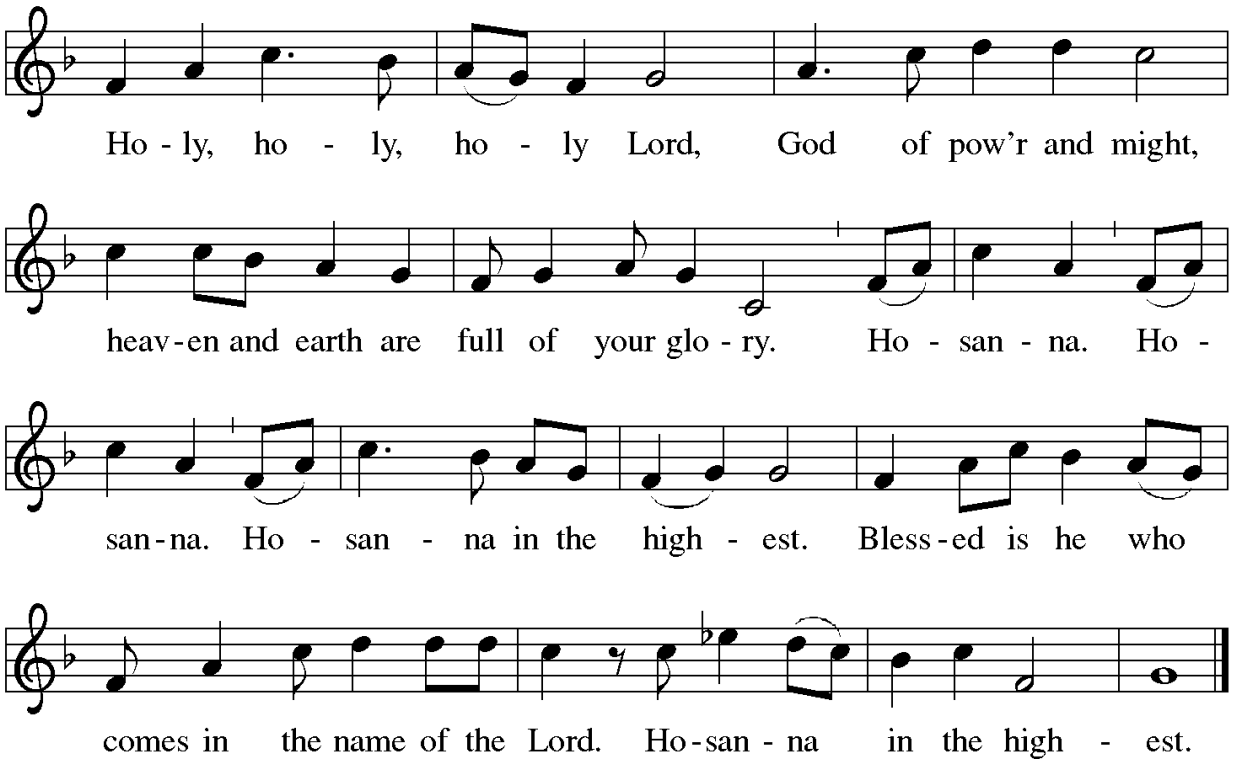
We pray: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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:



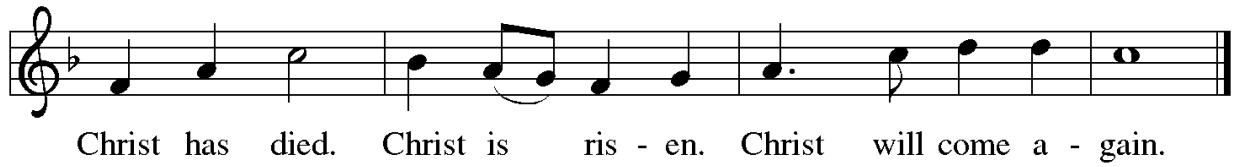
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

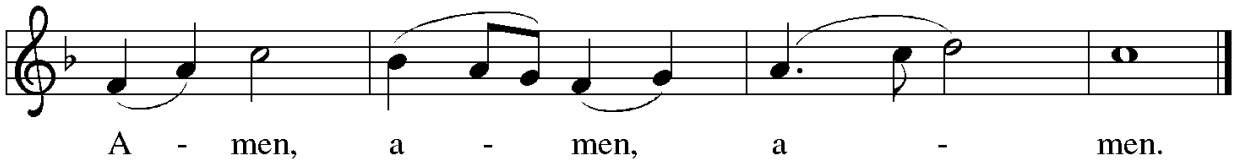
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.



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

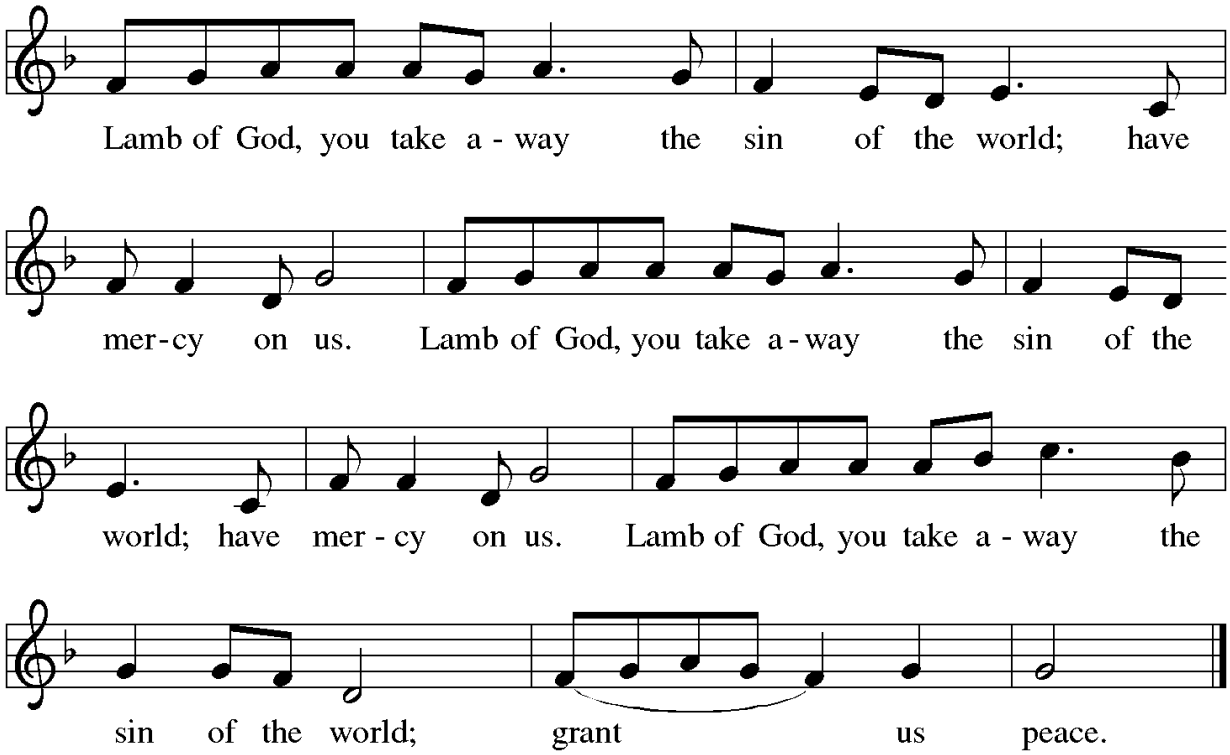
Come, Christ invites you to this table. **Thanks be to God.**

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



COMMUNION SONG

COMMUNION HYMN **'Blessed Assurance'** **ELW 638**

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: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED **Mike and Sharon Agee**

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **'Soon and Very Soon'** **ELW 439**

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader……Chuck Moll
Preacher……Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider……Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes……Graham Brady and Elijah Young
Crucifer……Noah Young
Banner Bearer……Hope Thomas

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