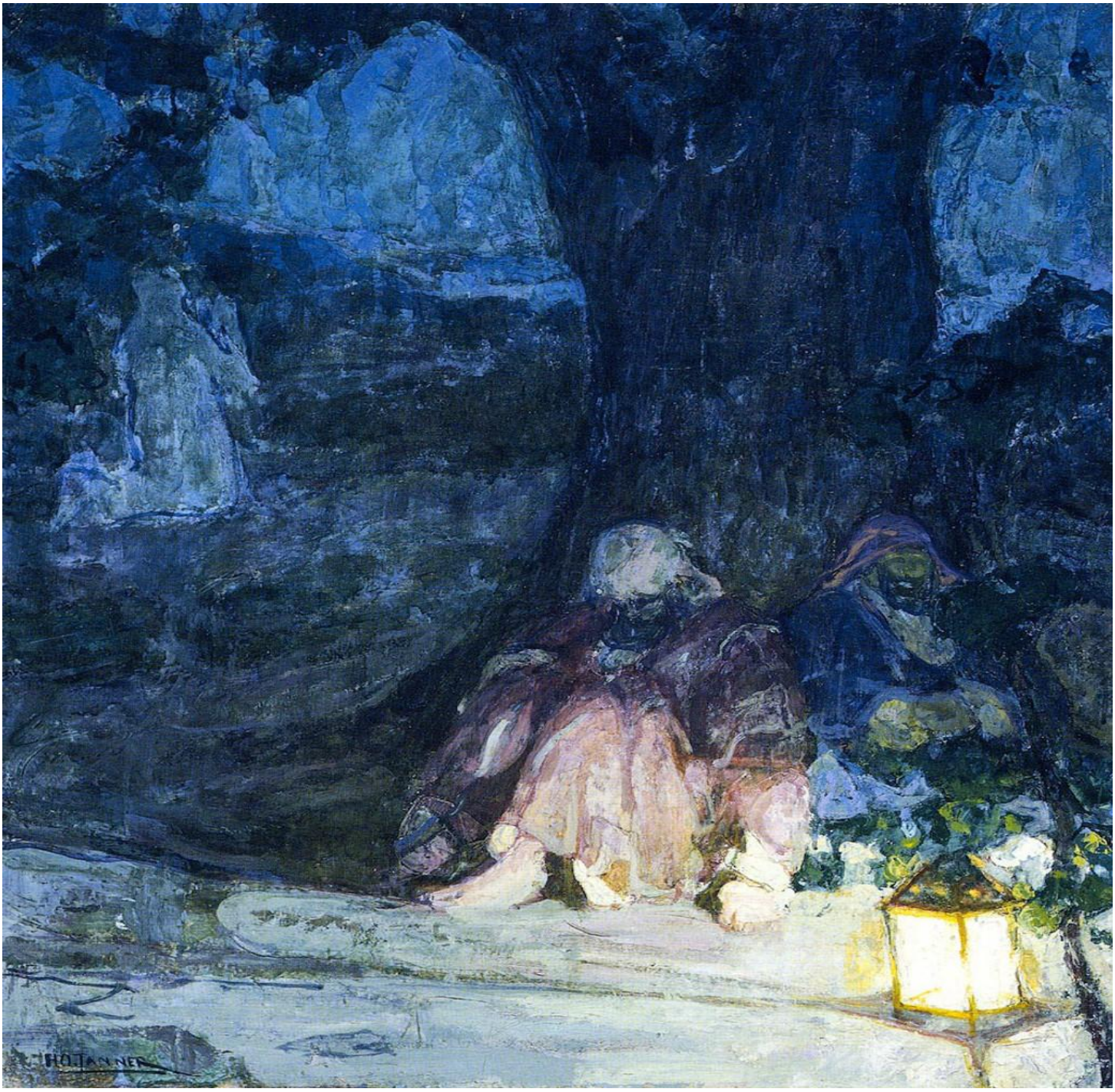


Title: The Sleeping Disciples (1923) Artist: Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937.

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 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!

Advent Music and Meditation – Dec. 3, 10 and 17 at 12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel. Dec. 3 will feature Dr. Martha Hill (harp), **Dec. 10** will feature Lawrence Quinnett, and **Dec. 17** will feature Mark Tysinger.

Serenity Sisters – Dec. 3 at 6 pm – Christmas Cookie Exchange at Ann Brady's home, 6025 Stokes Ferry Rd., Salisbury, NC. RSVP encouraged to Penny Moss at pmoss@salisburyacademy.org.

Men's Ministry at Work (Leaf Raking) – Dec. 5 – 8:30 am volunteer breakfast provided in the Pit. Our Men's Ministry group are ready and willing to serve you. RSVP with QR code on page 11 of this service guide to Volunteer or if you would like to have your yard leaves raked.

Bibles and Brew – Men's Ministry – **Dec. 7 at 6 pm**. Join us at Goose and The Monkey, 401 S. Railroad St., Lexington, NC.

Women's Ministry – Christmas Party – Dec. 10 at 6 pm at Pat Roos' home on 411 Windsor Dr., Salisbury, NC. For ALL women at St. John's, join us for a Christmas festivities extravaganza. There will be food and a gift exchange ($10 gift for gift exchange/Dirty Santa game). Bring your favorite wine and snack to share. Contact Rosalind Hines with any questions at rhines509@gmail.com.

Kingdom Kids Presentation - *"The ABCs of Christmas"* **– Wed., Dec. 9 at 6:15 pm in Ritchie Hall.** We invite the congregation to celebrate the season with us as our Wednesday evening Kingdom Kids present this year's Christmas play.

Poinsettias – Order deadline is Fri., Dec. 11. Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. John's as we decorate our worship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Poinsettia purchases or donations to the general decorating fund can be made on our website, via QR code on page 11 of this service guide, or complete a paper form located in our literature racks.

Men's Chorus Christmas Concert – *"A 'Bury Home Companion: Christmas Edition;* **Dec. 13 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary,** with Guest Singers and Musicians, Instrumentalists, Handbells, and Narration. Directed by Jason Harwood, and Accompanied by Janie Rollins, Thom Hinson, and Spence Robertson. A freewill offering will be collected for Rowan Helping Ministries.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God and in memory of
Rev. Dr. R. Harold & Kathryn Terry, by Glenn and Rebecca Terry.

Annual Meeting | December 6, 10:15 in the Faith Center

Members are encouraged to join us for a vote on the 2027 Budget and elect **five** new Council Members

Council Nominees: Elizabeth Derrick, Cheryl Gunter, Ann Hatchett, Kristin May, Penny Moss, Gary Rhodes, Kathy Roberson, Gary Taylor, David Wilson and Gray Wilson

Youth Nominees: Mary Masters Goodman and William Charest

Benevolent Fund Trustee Nominee: Cindy Fink

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.

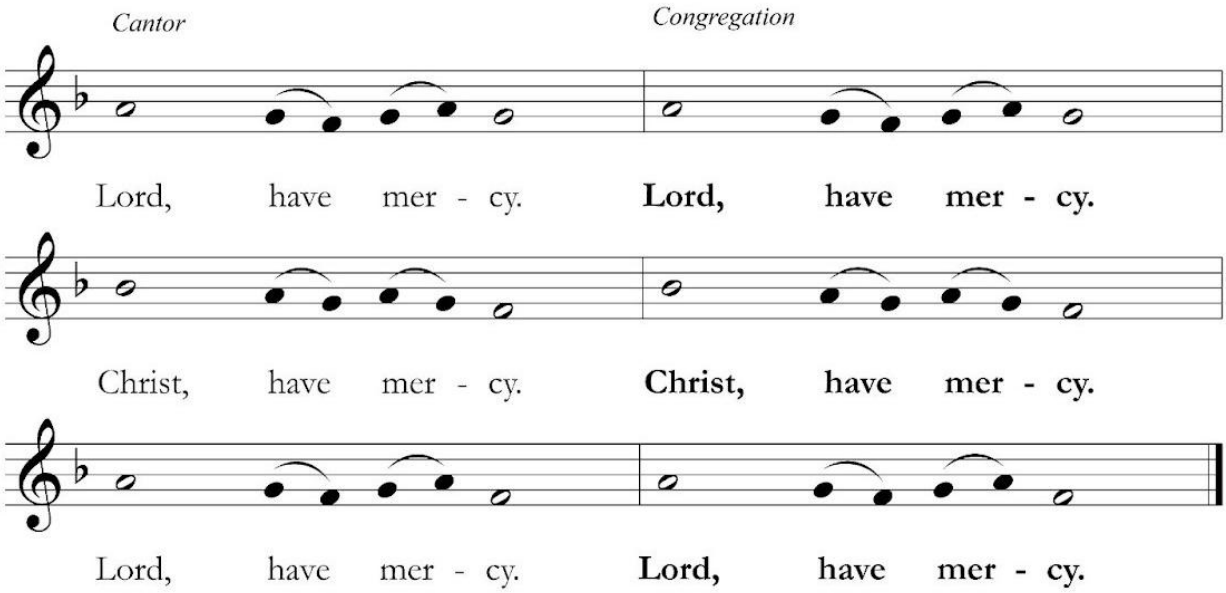
PRELUDE

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 opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. *Silence for reflection.*



Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **'Fling Wide the Door'** **ELW 259**

GREETING AND PRAYER

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.

We pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

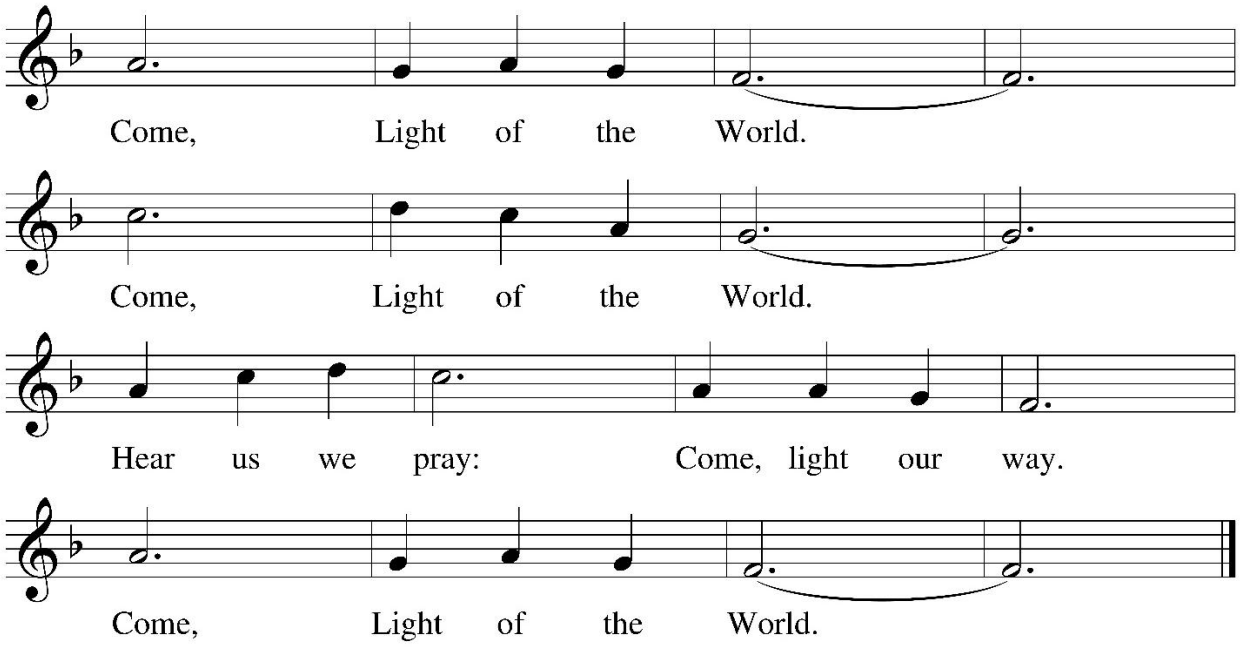
Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**.
Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.

ADVENT LIGHTING AND SONG

Phipps Family - Ashley, Devin and Lily

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light the first candle.



READING **Isaiah 64:1-9**

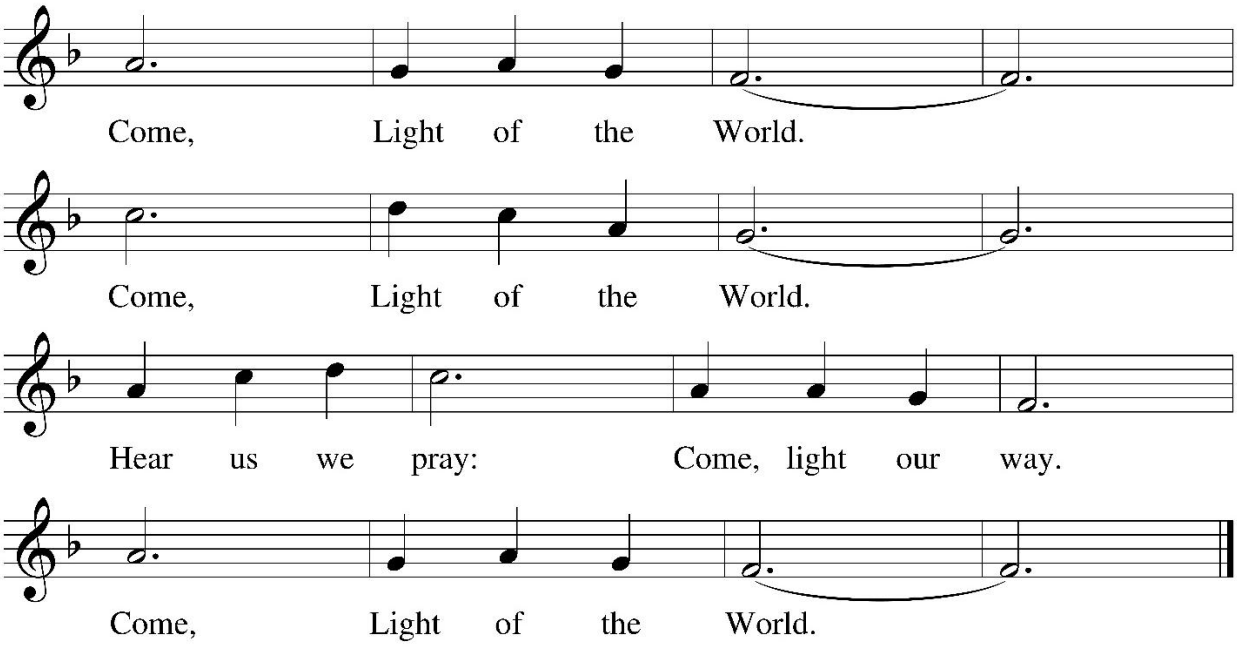
A reading from Isaiah, the 64th chapter.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake
at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make
your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When
you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your
presence. 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God
besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those
who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself
we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are
like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is
no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face
from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly
angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING **Mark 13:24-37**



The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] [24] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will
not give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will
be shaken. [26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and
glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends
of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know
that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these
things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but
only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a
man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at
dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say
to all: Keep awake."

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

Be seated.

SERMON **Pastor Dan Joyner Miller**

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY **'The King Shall Come'** **ELW 260**

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:
Merciful God,
receive 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 **'We Are Waiting'**
arr. Priscilla Landis

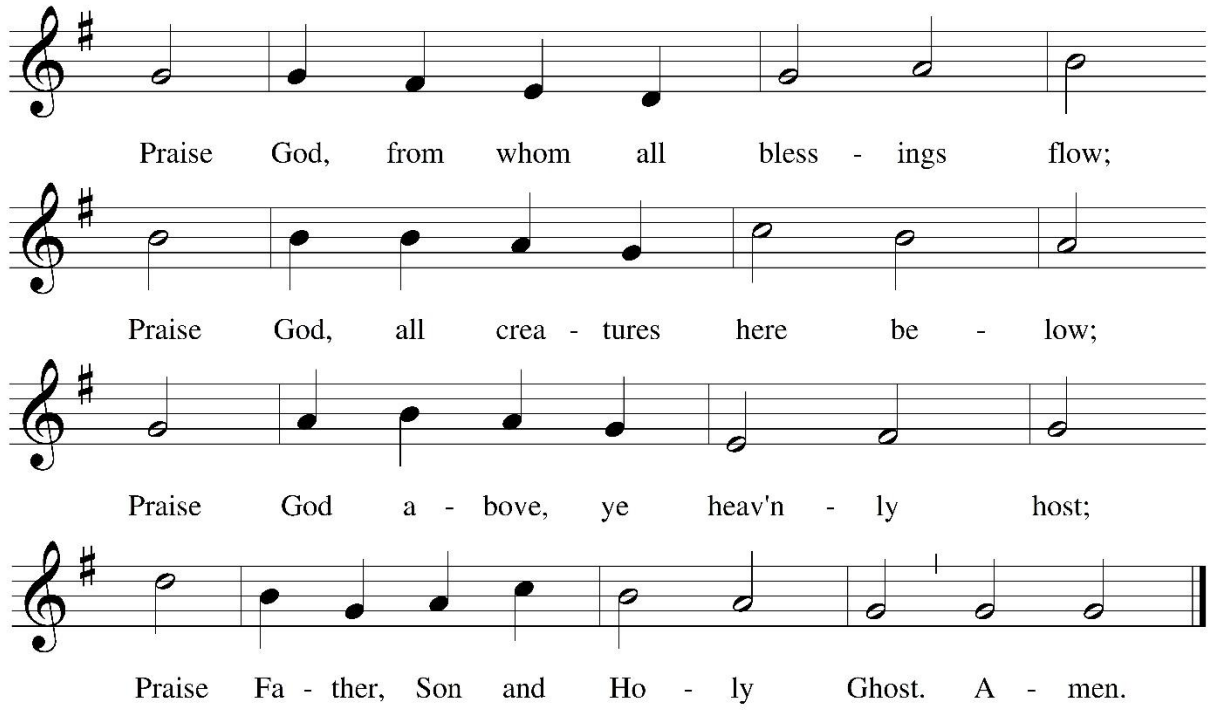
We are waiting for Jesus;
Jesus brings peace.

Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.

Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



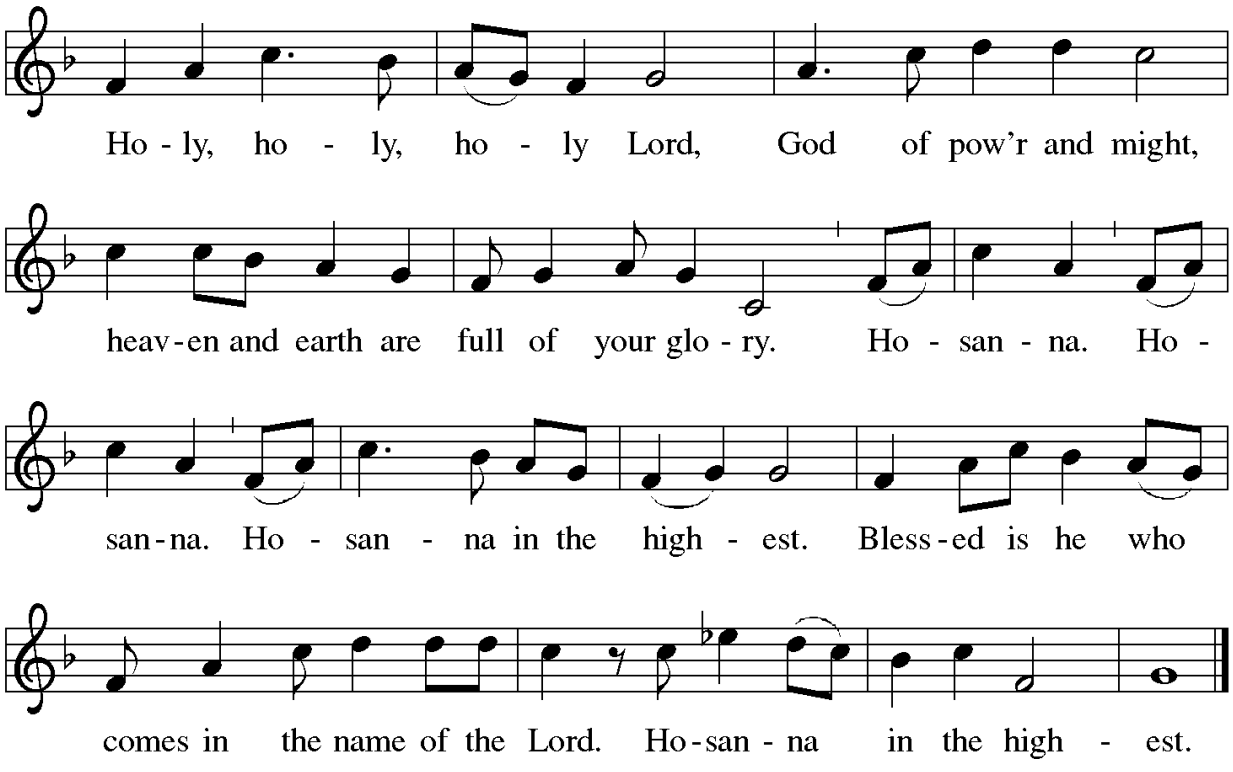
We pray: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ is died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **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

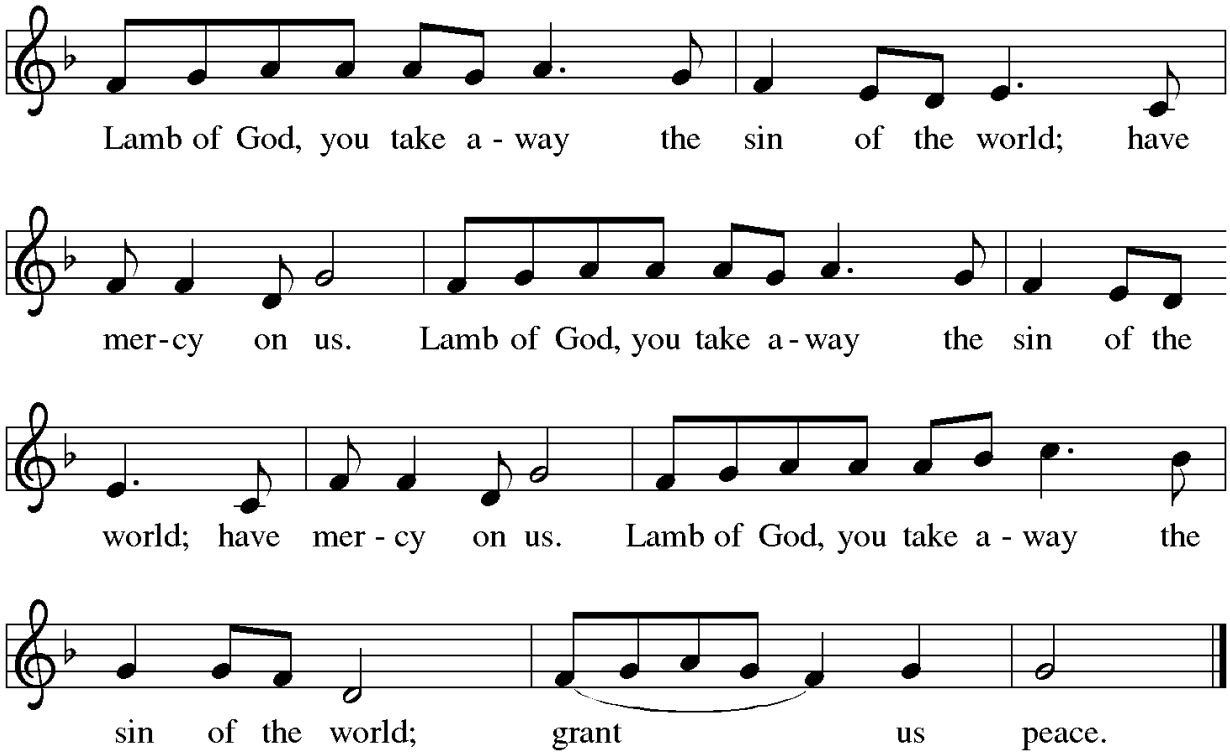
Come, Christ invites you to this table. **Thanks be to God.**

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



COMMUNION SONG **'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'** **Thom Hinson**
Setting, Eric Carlson

COMMUNION HYMN **'Awake! Awake and Greet the Morn'** **ELW 242**

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: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN **'Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending'** **ELW 435**

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader……..……..…..Daryl Bruner
Preacher and Presider…….……..…..……..…….Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes…..……..……Jackson Williams and Elijah Young
Crucifer……..……..Ashton Williams
Banner Bearer……..…….Noah Young

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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

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Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor…….....Dan Joyner Miller...ext. 2060
Pastor for Congregational Care …….....…...…….Lori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and Outreach ……..……..……...…….James 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.*