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LENT  
– *40 Days Of Renewal* –

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC  
[stjohns-salisbury.org](http://stjohns-salisbury.org) | 704-636-3431



During the season of Lent, our altar cross is replaced by a cross that reflects the somber and reflective themes of the season. This black cross with gold vines crossing through it was commissioned by the Heilig family and used as the St. John's altar cross for over 50 years. During the remainder of the year, it sits in the chapel narthex. Our regular cross, made of bright gold and commissioned by the late Paul and Lois Carter in 2011, will return on Easter Sunday.



# Welcome to St. John's

*We're so glad God has brought you here!*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent. As we begin this new week together, we'd like to bring a few announcements to your attention:

**Wednesday Night Meals**—Wednesday night meals continue in the new Fellowship Hall (Ritchie Hall) at 5:30 pm through March 29!

**Sundays of Lent** — 9:27 (Faith Center) and 11:00 am (Sanctuary and Online). This year's daily devotional guide, "*Water and Spirit*", is available in our literature racks and at the Church Office.

**Midweek Lenten Worship**—Holden Evening Prayer—Wednesdays of Lent, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and online. The Holden Evening Prayer booklets will be distributed and collected before and after each week's service. The 30-minute services will be rooted in the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer, accompanied by visual reflections and questions for contemplation from *Sanctified Art*.

**Lenoir Rhyne University Concert**—A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble—2023 Spring Tour, March 26 at 7pm. Performance is free and open to the public.

**Easter Lilies and Palms** — Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. John's, as we decorate our worship spaces for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Give thanks for the blessings in your life or remember and honor loved ones with the purchase of a palm or lily. Lilies may be purchased for \$15 and Palms may be purchased for \$25. We will also be collecting donations to go towards the Easter Cross and altar flowers in memory or honor of loved ones. Money for lilies, palms and flowers may be mailed to or taken to the church office. You may also place money, in a marked envelope in the offering boxes. Deadline for ordering is March 29.

## Worship Navigation

The Congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.

\* = **Please stand as you are able**

+ = **Face the Cross**

✝ = You are invited to make the sign of the Cross.

**Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.**



# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

*Praise the Lord With Joyful Song*

by Larry Christiansen

## **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 journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✚ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**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.**

**Kyrie.** \* *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*

Robert J. Durocher, Jr.

Gently ♩ = 78

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste e -  
le - i - son. Christ have mer - cy.

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The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day \*

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Welcome and Announcements



# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**Response**

*Shepherd of My Heart*  
(from Psalm 23, Ondria Durocher-Witt, Soloist)

by Sandi Patty



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Greg Williams

Hymn 793 \*

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

**Apostles' Creed.** \* Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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 of Intercession** \* *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:** *We make peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ, sharing the words "Peace be with you."*



## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Preparation of the Lord's Table.** *After the table is prepared, the Congregation stands and sings: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful".*

**The Offertory Hymn 182 \***

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

HILLERT



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### **Offertory Prayer \***

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**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.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer:**

#### **The Lord's Prayer \***

**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 \***

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *All the baptized are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We commune by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the front of the sanctuary. Proceed down the middle aisle, following the ushers' instructions, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing.*

## Communion Hymn

## Lamb of God

☐ 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.

Hymn 472

Piano Meditation

Hymn 754

*Eat This Bread*

*Near the Cross*

(Janie Rollins, Piano)

*Jesus, The Very Thought of You*

Arr. by John Carter

\* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.  
**Amen.**



# Sending

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

## Benediction \*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn 815 \*+

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

## Dismissal \*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

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*Holy* <sup>+</sup>*Week* **SCHEDULE**

April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 7 (Good Friday)	12:15 CHAPEL 7PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE
April 9 (Easter Sunday)	6:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE BTG 9:27AM FAITH CENTER 11AM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE

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