



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC
stjohns-salisbury.org | 704.636.3431



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

Benevolent Foundation Scholarship and Endowment Grant Applications—are Now Open and **Due by March 1 at 5 pm**. Please visit our website for more information at stjohns-salisbury.org/benevolent-foundation/

Wednesday Night Meals—Begin this Wed., **Jan. 15 at 5:30 pm in Ritchie Hall**. Please visit our website for more information and to obtain your Season Pass at stjohns-salisbury.org/Wednesdays.

New Members Classes—Interested in joining St. John's? Classes will be held on **Feb. 12 and 19 starting at 6:15 pm**. Sign up by scanning the QR code here, on our website or contact: james@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Offering Envelope Boxes—Your numbered box is available at the church office. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience.

Altar Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Ivan Sims and Barbara Anne Baker Sims by their families.

Baptismal Font Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in honor of Olivia Rose Fulbright by her grandparents, Glenn and Amy Stokes.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Order of St. John's:

Acolytes—Noah Trick and William Charest

Reader—Kathy Norris

Crucifer—Landen Ryerson

Banner Bearer—Callie Wisecarver

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

O Joyful Day! (Festivo)

by Paul Fey

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 creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **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.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



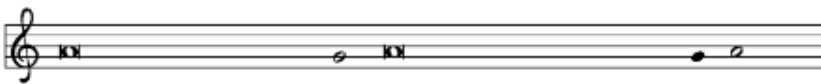
Lord, have mer - cy.



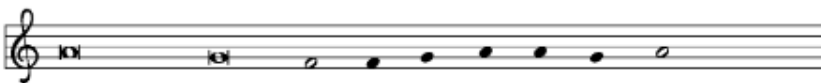
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

INVITATION TO CHILDREN’S WORSHIP—All elementary-aged children are invited to Children’s Worship. Please gather at the Baptismal Font.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION* *Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

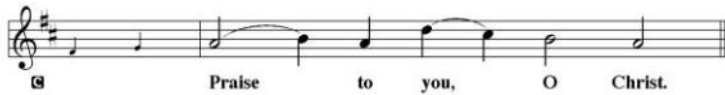
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

SERMON HYMN 456*

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Nathaniel Curtis Fulbright and Olivia Rose Fulbright

Child of Grace and Nathaniel Curtis Fulbright

Godparent: Emily Stokes

Baptismal family gathers at the font.

Presentation and Prayer

Candidates for baptism, parent(s), Godparent(s) and baptismal partner(s) gather with the minister at the font. The presiding minister addresses the parents and the congregation.

The Congregation's Response:

People of God, do you promise to support Nathaniel and Olivia and pray for them in their new life in Christ? **We do.**

The Profession of Faith

People of God, 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. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God...unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Rite of Baptism *The Rite of Baptism includes three symbols used in baptismal liturgy since the beginning of the church: water (for cleansing), oil (for sealing), and light (for proclaiming).*

Baptism with Water. *Nathaniel and Olivia are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Imposition of Oil. *Oil is used to make the sign of the cross on Nathaniel and Olivia's forehead, a symbol that seals them in relationship with Christ.*

Gift of Light. *Nathaniel and Olivia are welcomed into the Family of God. Candles (the light of Christ) are presented to them with the words, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative
redeeming Word to all the world.**

As Nathaniel and Olivia are introduced to the congregation; all are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me."

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.**

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.***

**Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain***

PEACE*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

By the Cloud of the Presence

Alan Ridout

By the cloud of the presence of the glory of God,
And the fire by night to guard them where they'd trod,
The people on the road to the promised land
Were trusting in God as he led them by hand.

*Onward they follow to the end; they faithfully heed their Father and friend.
The journey on may lead far away, but they go with God as they trust and pray.*

Shining high in the firmament, the star in the east
Is a sign from God to hasten to a feast.
Proceeding to the place where the infant lies,
The wise men are led by the light in the skies.

When our Lord came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He came not for pardon, he the sinless one;
But came to bring us life and to set us free,
God's well-beloved grants us liberty.

OFFERTORY HYMN* *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION* *Each petition ends: “God of grace, **hear our 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.



SENDING

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

BENEDICTION*

The Spirit of the triune God
✚ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 545*+ *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS

DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Unless otherwise indicated, today’s service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license # 26999.