

WELCOME TO
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST

AUGUST 23, 2026

10:30 A.M.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are welcome!

Whether you are a guest or a long-time member, we are blessed by your presence today.

Children are most welcome and always celebrated as a part of our church community. Nursery care is available during worship for children 0 - 4 years old in "The Children's Space," first floor, Parish Hall building. Children's Church is offered for children 4 years old - elementary. We gather in the rear of the church and process to the Parish Hall for a lesson and activity, returning to worship at the Peace. Our trained staff and volunteers lead both of these ministries. The Parish Hall is also home to nursing and changing facilities and a comfortable, quiet space (St. Agnes room). Please ask an usher or greeter if you need assistance finding any of these locations.

Restrooms are in the hallway on the Church Street side of the building - exit through the Baptistry, turn left at the end of the ramp and then left at the sidewalk that runs alongside the church.

If you are visiting today, please complete a Guest Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate.

May the God who brought you here today bless you throughout the coming week.

The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, Ph.D., *Interim Rector*

VI Bishop of Eastern Oregon, res.

Assistant Bishop of North Carolina, ret.

The Rev. Bonnie Duckworth, *Deacon & Coordinator for Older Adult Ministry*

Stephen Williams, *Director of Music Ministry*

Caroline Stephenson, *Parish and Family Ministry Coordinator*

Jessica Moorman, *Parish Administrator*

Lynn Frick, *Director, The Children's Space*

Come and See
the difference Christ makes



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY

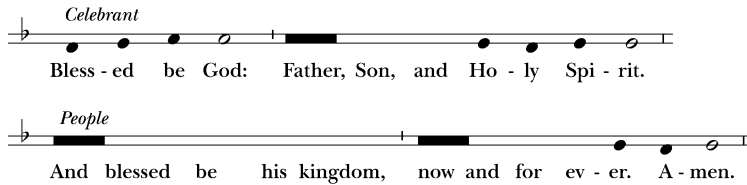
Deck Thyself, My Soul With Gladness

Johannes Brahms

William McConnell, guest organist

HYMN IN PROCESSION #427 When morning gilds the skies

Hymnal 1982



Book of Common Prayer, 355

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

GLORIA S-231 A Song of Praise

Sung by all.

Hymnal 1982

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING *Please be seated.*

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 124 *Sung by all, seated.*

chant, Robert Knox Kennedy



- 1 If the Lord had not been on our **side**, *
let Israel now **say**;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our **side**, *
when enemies rose up **against us**;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up **alive** *
in their fierce anger toward **us**;
- 4 Then would the waters have **overwhelmed us** *
and the torrent gone **over us**;
- 5 Then would the raging **waters** *
have gone right **over us**.
- 6 Blessed be the **Lord**! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their **teeth**.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the **fowler**; *
the snare is broken, and we have **escaped**.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the **Lord**, *
the maker of heaven and **earth**.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God~ what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.

#581 Where charity and love prevail

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, Ph.D.

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand, as able.

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remain standing or kneel.

Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for our global companion, the Bishop James Hannington Memorial Cathedral in Mumias, Kenya, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially +Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; +Sean, our Presiding Bishop; +Samuel, our Diocesan; Jennifer, our Assistant Bishop; +Joseph, Bishop of the Diocese of Mumias, Kenya; +William, our Interim Rector; and Bonnie, our Deacon. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jane and Harper; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Silence, after which the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.]

A PRAYER FOR THE CALLING OF OUR NEXT RECTOR

Gracious and loving God, who calls faithful leaders and has blessed St. Luke's with gifts of love, compassion, diversity, fellowship, inspiring liturgy, and historic spaces within which to worship: Send your Holy Spirit to guide us in our discernment as we seek the one you are calling to be our next rector. Continue to form us through intentional worship, empower our efforts in becoming your beloved community, and keep your abundant grace always before us. In the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

BCP 820

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Please kneel, as able.

BCP 359

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence.*

All: Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *Please remain kneeling.*

THE PEACE *Please stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please be seated.*

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

Prayed by all.

Those celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary in the previous or coming week are invited to come forward for a prayer. It is customary, but not at all required, to put an offering in the silver vessel when coming forward. Some choose to put an amount symbolic of the number of years being celebrated.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Guest Information cards (found in the pew racks)
may be placed in the offering plate or given to the clergy after church today.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Gifts to support the ministries of St. Luke's may be placed in the Offering Plate or given online at
www.SLS.church/give*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree.
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity. In our doubt,
there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection;
at the last a victory, unrevealed until its season, something
yet unknown, which God alone can see.*

THE DOXOLOGY Hymn #380, verse 3 *Please stand, as able. Sung by all.*

Hymnal 1982

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Please remain standing.

BCP 367

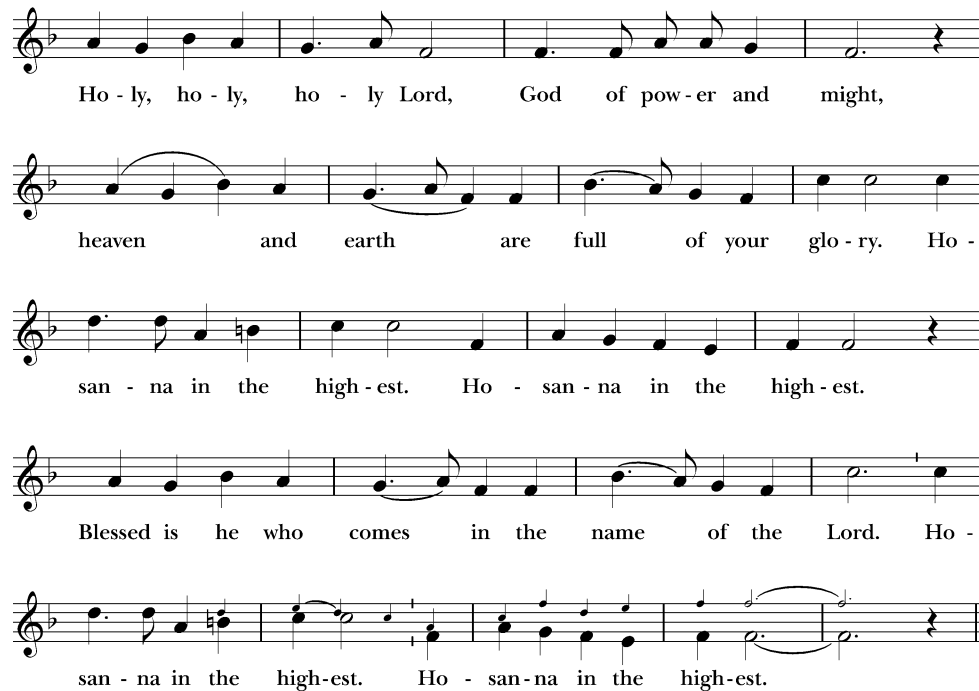
SURSUM CORDA S-120

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS S-125 Sung by all.

Hymnal 1982



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please remain standing or kneel.

The Celebrant continues: We give thanks to you, O God ...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues... all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM S-155*Sung by all.**Hymnal 1982*

All baptized persons are most welcome to receive Communion with us, regardless of the tradition in which you were baptized. If you do not wish to receive Communion or if you are not baptized, you are invited to come to the Altar for a blessing. To indicate that you want a blessing, place your arms across your heart.

COMMUNION HYMN #304 I come with joy to meet my Lord*Hymnal 1982***THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *Please stand or kneel.**BCP 365*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE BLESSING**HYMN IN PROCESSION** *Sung by all.*

#522 Glorious things of thee are spoken

*Hymnal 1982***THE DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

We warmly welcome William McConnell, our guest organist today. William is a Charlotte native who recently returned to the area. He has served in musical leadership in numerous Episcopal congregations, including Christ Church Cathedral (Louisville, KY), St Dunstan's (Tulsa, OK) and Church of the Ascension (Middletown, OH). He served on the faculty of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC, and was an active member of St. David's Episcopal Church. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the Master of Choral Music Education degree from East Carolina University.

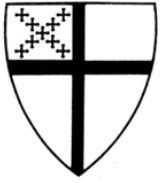
Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Pati Carter, Cris Leckonby, Stewart Ash, Hank Newman	Malachi Whitson, Brian Whitson, Hank Newman, Trevor Eppheimer
<i>Greeter</i>	Pati Carter	Malachi Whitson
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Cris Leckonby	Brian Whitson
<i>Lectors</i>	Davis Cooke, Cris Leckonby	Lee Piper, Malachi Whitson
<i>Chalicians</i>	Kathy Carter, Pennie Martin	Stephen Collins, Stephanie Phoenix
<i>Intercessor</i>	Robin Swanson	Chip Carter
<i>Verger</i>	Davis Cooke	Greg Shields
<i>Acolytes</i>	Clara Tinsley, Marlee Speir, Stephanie Collins, Ben Dunkin	Nick Clement, Sawyer Jacobson, Millie Klauder, Emma Stephenson
<i>Choir</i>	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Katie Leckonby, Mary Plumley	Katie Leckonby, Laura Greene
<i>Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Hannah Jacobson	Caroline Stephenson, Jim Greene
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Cathy Green	Davis Cooke
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Brian Whitson, Jane White	Luanne Short, Andrew Jacobson
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Lynn Bolick, Eunice Gladey, Mary Ann McCubbin	Katie Setzer, Meredith Ellis, Laura Greene

Eucharistic Candles given by: Reg Boland in honor of teachers, firefighters and police officers

Office Candles given by: Marilyn King in memory of William Sturges Bryan, Dr. Rowland R. King, Sue Sample Bryan, James Blount Bryan, H. Blount and Annette S. Bryan, Norman L. and Marie W. Bailiff

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Nan Medley in honor of St. Luke's Choirs and Stephen Williams

Altar Flowers given by: Lisa Taylor Towell and Kate Taylor Hill in memory of Mary Lawson Hardin, Ernest Lauriston Hardin, Ernest Lauriston Hardin Jr., Eleanor Barker Hardin, Edward Tennent Taylor, Elizabeth Hardin Taylor



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Established 1753

A Parish of the Diocese of North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

131 West Council Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Phone: 704-633-3221 / www.SLS.church / @stlukessalisbury



PARISH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

2026: Kathy Carter, Tyler Ellis (Jr. Warden), Andrew Jacobson, Jane White (Sr. Warden)

2027: Penny Roemer, Ray Swann, Brian Whitson, Sarah Wooten

2028: David Cline, John Cowan, Mary Ann McCubbin, Luanne Short

Parish Officers: Davis Cooke (Secretary); Will Goodnight (Treasurer); Chip Short (Chancellor)

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