Welcome to

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

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The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist

November 15, 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*

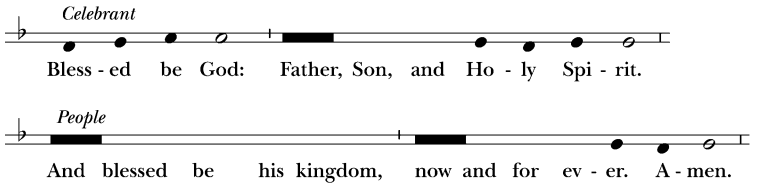
Come and See
the *difference* Christ makes

Abundant Grace · Intentional Worship · Beloved Community

THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY Cantabilé César Franck

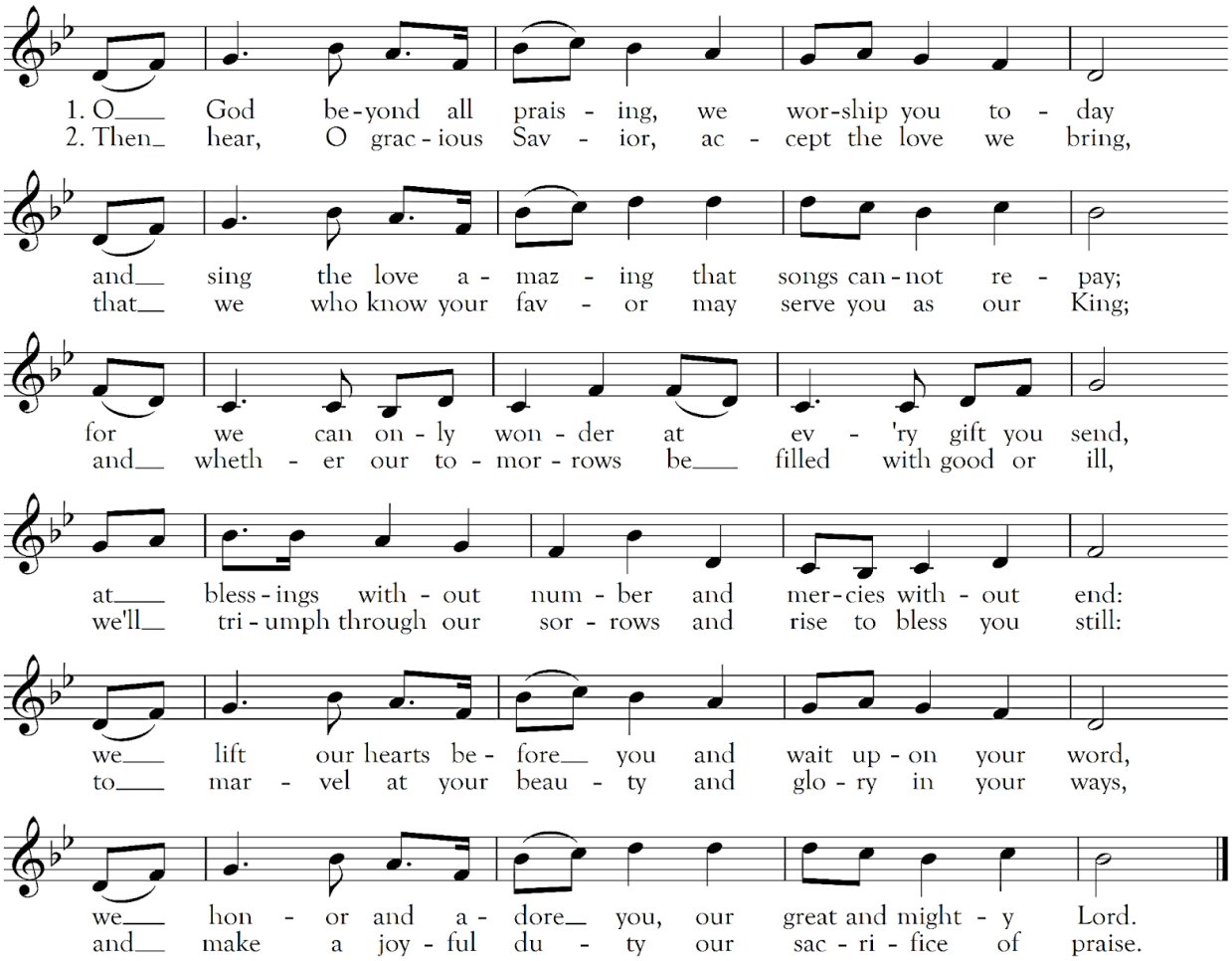
HYMN IN PROCESSION #561 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus *Hymnal 1982*



Book of Common Prayer, 355

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

GLORIA O God beyond all praising *Sung by all.* *Hymns Ancient & Modern*



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING *Please be seated.* **Zephaniah 1:7,12-18**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm."

Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 123 *Sung by the choir.* chant, C. Hylton Stewart

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

THE SECOND READING — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN *Please stand, as able. Sung by all.*

#326 From glory to glory advancing *Hymnal 1982*

THE HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 25:14-30

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him,

and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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 Nancy and David; 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, especially Ray Peace, 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 Our New Rector

Most gracious and loving God, who gives us diverse gifts and calls us to diverse ministries in which to use these gifts, we give you thanks that through Christ in the power of your Spirit, you have guided us through the process of discerning the one you have called to be our new rector. We give you thanks that Fr. Christopher has heard and accepted your call to him through us. We ask your blessing on Fr. Christopher and his family, Anne, Andi and Elena. May their transition to Salisbury be smooth and easy. Bless this parish as we prepare to receive the Wilkersons among us. Bless us all as we enter into the new chapter of our life with You. Grant that we may all enter into our future with You, with openness and faithfulness, to your honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

A Prayer for Sound Government BCP 821

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.
Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.
For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

2027 Pledge Cards may be submitted in the bowl near the Altar during Communion or in the Offering Plate. 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 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem John Henry Maunder

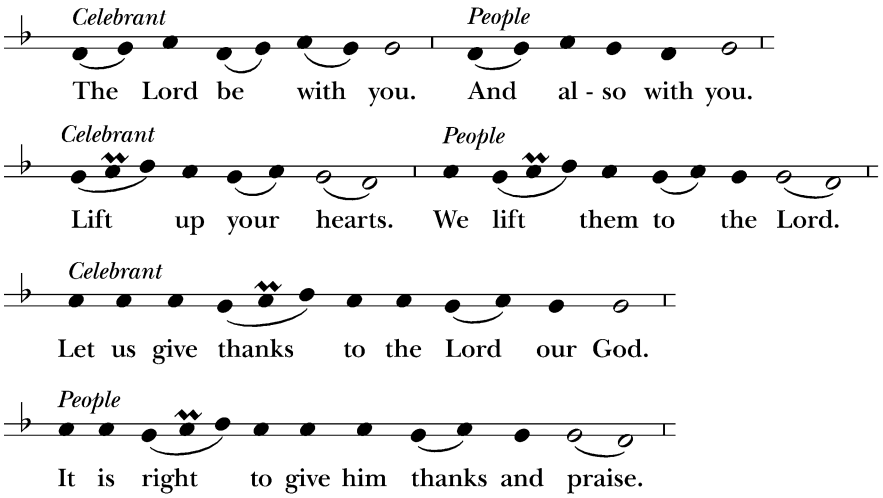
Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise thy God, O Zion.
For He hath made fast the bars of thy gates, and hath
blessed thy children within thee. The Lord is gracious,
and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great goodness.
The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over
all His works. All thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and Thy
saints give thanks unto Thee. The valleys stand so thick
with corn that they laugh and sing.
(Psalms 147:12, 145:8-10, 65:14)

THE DOXOLOGY Hymn #400.7 *Please stand, as able. Sung by all.*

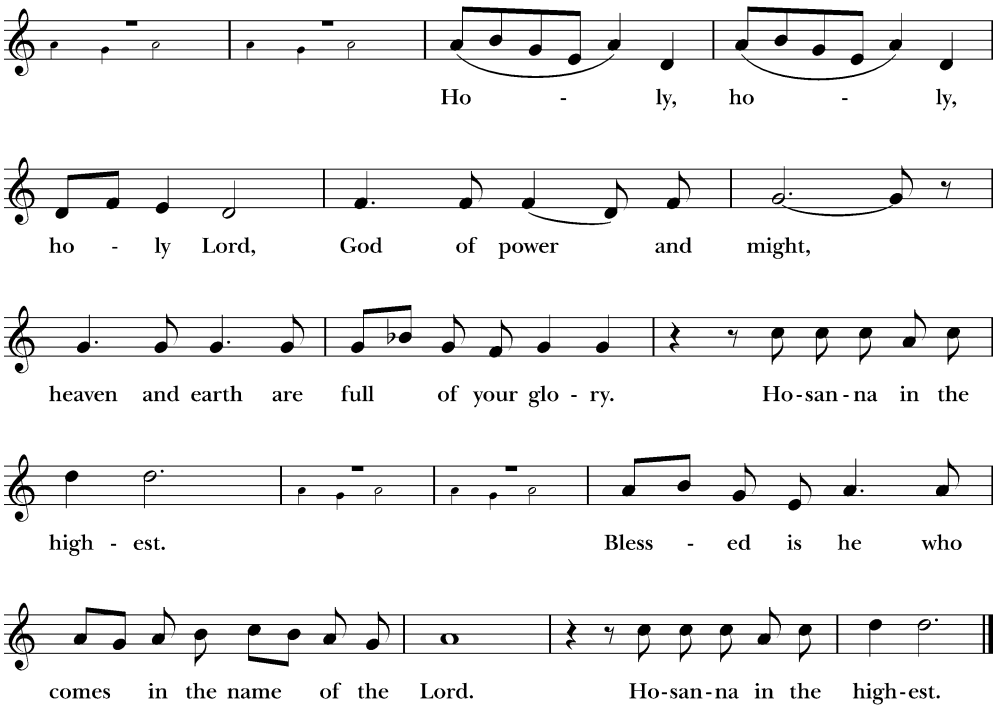
Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B *Please remain standing.* BCP 367

SURSUM CORDA S-120 *Hymnal 1982*



SANCTUS S-128 *Sung by all.* *Hymnal 1982*



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;

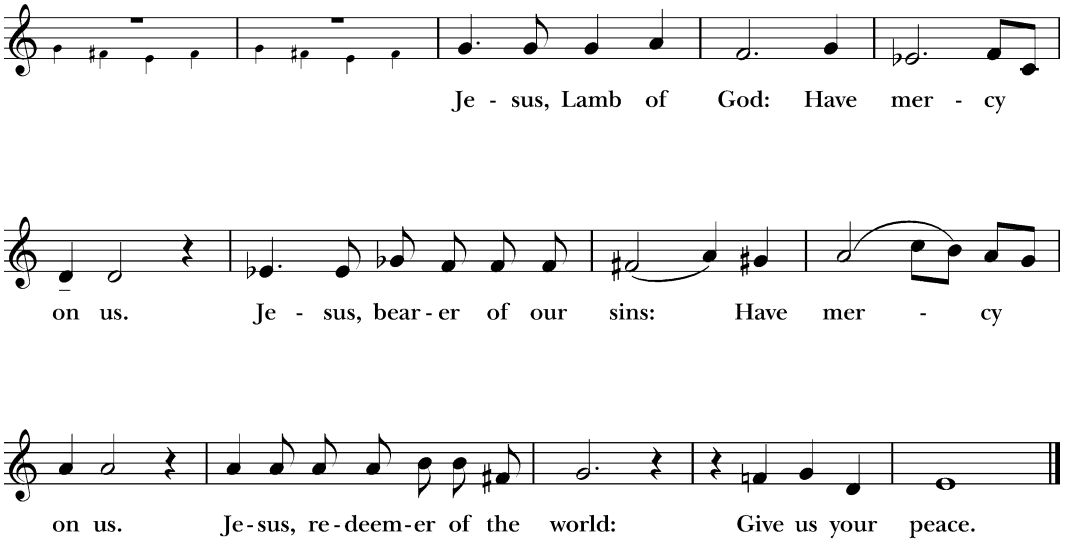
The Celebrant continues... all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

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-165 *Sung by all.* *Hymnal 1982*



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

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.

For health and safety reasons, it is not possible to allow intinction as a means of making your Communion. If you do not wish to receive the sacramental Blood of Christ / Wine from the chalice (which is quite alright), you may cross your arm over your heart to indicate you do not wish to receive or you may leave the Altar rail after you receive the sacramental Body of Christ / Bread. Either option is fine. Please know that to receive Communion in one Kind is to receive the whole sacrament and is in no way deficient.

COMMUNION HYMN #621 Light's abode, celestial Salem *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.*

#551 Rise up, ye saints of God *Hymnal 1982*

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Pièce Heroïque César Franck

Music Notes:

Our opening hymn today, *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* was inspired by the dying message of Dudley Tyng, a young preacher in Philadelphia who was forced to resign from his Episcopal Church pastorate for speaking out against slavery in the mid-1800s. In addition to starting a new church, Tyng and other ministers preached revival meetings at the local YMCA during lunch and soon began to attract thousands. (This revival period is known as "The Work of God in Philadelphia.") In March of 1858, during a sermon to 5,000 young men at the YMCA, Tyng supposedly said, "I would rather that this right arm was amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God's message." Only a few days later, Tyng left the study of his country home to visit his barn where a mule was harnessed to a machine that was shelling corn. When he patted the mule, his sleeve was caught in the cogs of the wheel, and his arm was badly maimed. He passed away the following week from the injury. Before he died, he was asked if he had a message for the ministers at the revival and he replied, "Tell them, 'Let us all stand up for Jesus.' " His friend and fellow preacher George Duffield was touched by the words and wrote the hymn *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*. Duffield concluded his sermon the following Sunday by reading the lyrics as a tribute to his friend. Duffield's Sunday School superintendent printed copies of the poem, the lyrics soon found their way into a religious newspaper and the hymn spread from there.

John Henry Maunder (1858-1920) was an English composer and organist who today is best remembered for his cantata Olivet to Calvary. As a composer, Maunder wrote many pieces for church use, including anthems, hymns, cantatas and services. He also composed a few secular songs, instrumental pieces and two operettas. His music was widely performed and admired in its day (even by the likes of Edward Elgar) but is strongly characteristic of the Victorian era and began to fall out of fashion during the 20th century. The Old Testament text of this rather glorious and majestic anthem celebrates divine provision, protection, and the bounty of harvest.

Servers	*Today*	*Next Sunday*
Ushers	Pati Carter, Cris Leckonby, Stewart Ash	Malachi Whitson, Brian Whitson, Trevor Eppehimer, Hank Newman
Greeter	Pati Carter	Malachi Whitson
Emergency Response	Cris Leckonby	Brian Whitson
Lectors	Cris Leckonby, Jane White	Lee Piper, Pennie Martin
Chalicists	Stephanie Phoenix, Ray Swann	Pati Carter, Pennie Martin
Intercessor	Penny Roemer	Davis Cooke
Verger	Ray Swann	Davis Cooke
Acolytes	Marlee Speir, Jiselle Samolu, Sawyer Jacobson, Ingrid Jacobson	Nick Clement, Pierce Ellis, Salem Griffith, Duncan Griffith
Choir	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
Nursery	Katie Leckonby, Tory Curran	Katie Leckonby, Cris Leckonby
Children's Church	Caroline Stephenson, Andrew Jacobson	Caroline Stephenson, Danielle Corriher
Vestry Deposit	Jane White, Ray Swann	Brian Whitson, Luanne Short
Altar Guild	Ann Dunn, Alex Dunn, Dora Wood, Tyler Breese, Eliza Breese	Barb Whenal, Ann Dandison, Reg Boland
Wednesday Server	Davis Cooke	

Eucharistic Candles given by: Penny Roemer in memory of Hans E. Roemer, Rosina and Sidney Fyson, Jack Dobie, Beverly Fyson, Doris Harding, Patrick Daly

Office Candles given by: Mr. and Mrs. Donny Clement III in memory of Murtis Maynard Nicholas, Dan Miller Nicholas, Richard Maynard Nicholas, Ruth Ritchie Miller Clement, Don Clement Jr., Joseph Duane Gilliam, Betty Dan Nicholas Spencer

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Reg Boland in memory of the Rev. Kenneth R. Terry and the Rev. Uly H. Gooch

Altar Flowers given by: Marilyn King in memory of William Sturges Bryan, Sue Sample Bryan, James Blount Bryan, Dr. Rowland Rutherford King

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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