

WELCOME TO
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST

SEPTEMBER 20, 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

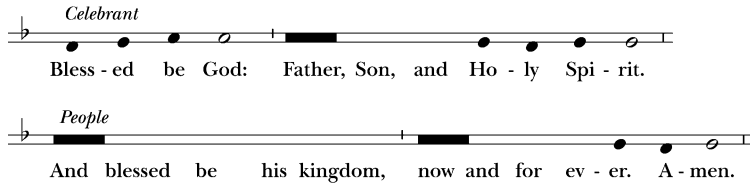
VOLUNTARY

Prelude in D

Daniel Ficarri

HYMN IN PROCESSION #408 Sing praise to God who reigns above

Hymnal 1982



Book of Common Prayer, 355

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

GLORIA S-278

Sung by all.

Hymnal 1982

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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.

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not

labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45 *Sung by the choir.*

chant, Stephen Elvey

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
- 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.

#527 Singing songs of expectation

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 Ethel, Reg, Martha, Harper, Kayla, Mary Ann, Prisse, and Yo; 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 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 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

Thou visitest the earth
Thou visitest the earth, and blest it: and
crownest the year with thy goodness. (Psalm 65:9,12)

Maurice Greene

THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Duke Street

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Please remain standing.

BCP 367

SURSUM CORDA S-120

Hymnal 1982

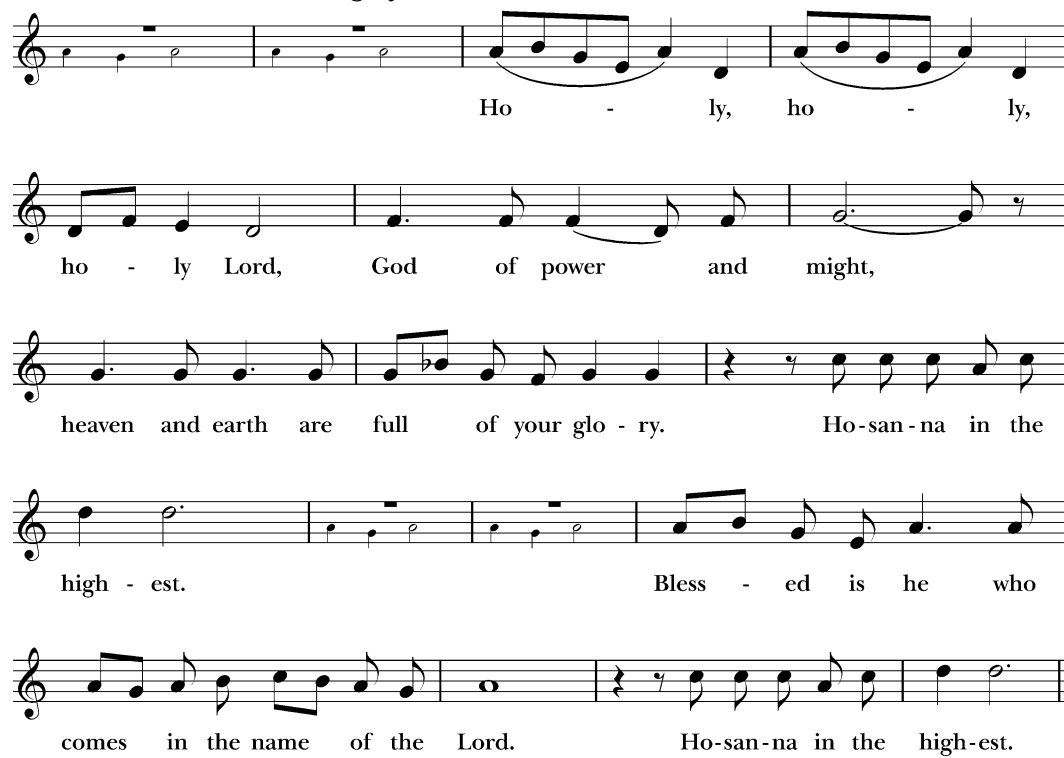
The musical notation for Sursum Corda S-120 consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are as follows:

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.



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

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

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 #321 My God, thy table now is spread*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.***#524 I love thy kingdom, Lord***Hymnal 1982***THE DISMISSAL**

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

People: Thanks be to God.

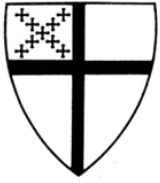
Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Pati Carter, Cris Leckonby, Stewart Ash, Hank Newman	Malachi Whitson, Brian Whitson, Hank Newman, Trevor Eppehimer
<i>Greeter</i>	Pati Carter	Malachi Whitson
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Cris Leckonby	Brian Whitson
<i>Lectors</i>	Michelle Whitson, Malachi Whitson	Pennie Martin, Robin Swanson
<i>Chalicians</i>	Chip Carter, Kathy Carter	Stephen Collins, Pennie Martin
<i>Intercessor</i>	Cris Leckonby	Graham Corriher
<i>Verger</i>	Michelle Whitson	Graham Corriher
<i>Acolytes</i>	Malachi Whitson, Marlee Speir, James Stephenson, Jiselle Samolu	Nick Clement, Stephanie Collins, John Graham Corriher, Ben Dunkin
<i>Choir</i>	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Katie Leckonby, Tyler Breese	Katie Leckonby, Mary Plumley
<i>Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Andrew Jacobson	Caroline Stephenson, Hannah Jacobson
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	David Cline, Penny Roemer	Tyler Ellis, Mary Ann McCubbin
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Kay Ash, Rebekah Kelly, Laura Thompson	Ann Dunn, Alex Dunn, Dora Wood, Tyler Breese, Eliza Breese
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Cathy Green	Davis Cooke

Eucharistic Candles given by: Pennie and Dick Martin in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Beaver, Rev. and Mrs. Richard S. Martin

Office Candles given by: Jamie and Susan King in memory of McRay and Sue Robinson, Julia Greene King

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

Altar Flowers given by: Churchi Bombo in memory of Samuel D. Lewis, Tebeh B. Lewis, Joseph Perry, Marie Brown, Mitchen Sackor Lewis, John D. Lewis, Soni K. Clinton, Viddy D. Clinton



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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