

WELCOME TO

ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

HOLY EUCHARIST

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'd William O. Gregg, Ph.D., *Interim Rector*

VI Bishop of Eastern Oregon, res.

Assistant Bishop of North Carolina, ret.

The Rev. Thomas Carter, *Priest Associate*

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*

Daphne Safrit, *Director, The Children's Space*

Come and See
the *difference* Christ makes



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY

Psalm Prelude, Set 1, No. 1

Herbert Howells

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

GREAT LITANY AND KYRIE

Please stand, as able. Chanted by all.

Chant S-67, Hymnal 1982; text in Book of Common Prayer, 148

SALUTATION

Celebrant
Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People
His mercy endureth for ever.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Please be seated.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 32

Sung by choir.

Chant, Thomas Norris

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
 my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
 and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
 Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
 when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
 you preserve me from trouble; *
 you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
 I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
 or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
 but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN #150 Forty days and forty nights *Please stand.*

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Thomas Carter

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel or stand.

Deacon: Creator God, you have formed us for a purpose. Enter more deeply into our hearts that we might more fully know you and the role you have created us for, and accept our prayers as we say, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Empower your Church to speak truth and to stand boldly against the dark powers of this world, that it might be a refuge and a place for hope. We especially pray for our global companion, Bishop James Hannington Memorial Cathedral in Mumias, Kenya. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden your people to hold to account the leaders of the world, that they might pursue policies of peace and fellowship. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us discerning and generous hearts that your blessings might be made known to our neighbors through our actions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Equip us and sustain us to forestall environmental catastrophes, and to preserve the glorious abundance of creation for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Support those who suffer and make your healing presence known to them. Especially we pray for Reg, Danny, Barbara, Tom, Jason, Bob, Terry, Greg and Dawn. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept the dying into your loving arms and greet us also in the hour of our death that we might rise again in your new age. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Speak to us and guide us in our life’s path so that we might be fully the people you created us to be. All we have and all we ask comes from you, O Lord, who with the Son and Holy Spirit reigns for ever, one God.
Amen.

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

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

BCP 360

THE PEACE *Please stand.*

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

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

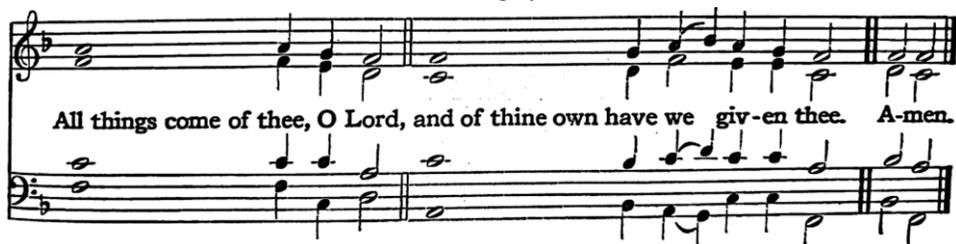
Lord, who throughout these forty days
Anthem text found at Hymn #142

Erik Meyer

THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.

Hymnal 1940



All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we giv-en thee. A-men.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

BCP 333

SANCTUS Holy, holy, holy

Sung by choir. Missa brevis II
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Denis Bédard

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

All: **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 *Agnus Dei Sung by choir. Missa brevis II* Denis Bédard

*O Lamb of God, you away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us, grant us peace.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS *Prayed by all.* BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God...

The Holy Eucharist is central to our worship and identity, and we want all to be able to participate. Please see card at end of each pew for more information about how to receive Communion or a Prayer of Blessing.

HYMN AT COMMUNION #674 *Forgive our sins as we forgive* 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 PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE *In Lent, in place of a blessing the Celebrant offers a solemn prayer on the people's behalf asking for God's strength, guidance, and grace. The People respond with "Amen."*

HYMN IN PROCESSION #559 *Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us* Hymnal 1982

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY *If thou but suffer God to guide thee* Johann Sebastian Bach

Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Bob Setzer, Andy Lund Erik Lipscomb, Pennie Martin	Brian Whitson, Tyler Speir, Sandy Goodman, Will Goodnight
<i>Greeter</i>	Teresa McKinney	Andrew and Susanna Lund
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Greg Shields	Pennie Martin
<i>Lectors</i>	Luke Hamaty, Graham Corriher	Penny Roemer, Dick Martin
<i>Chalicians</i>	Stephen Collins, Pennie Martin	Pati Carter, Chip Carter
<i>Intercessor</i>	Jennifer McKinney	Jane White
<i>Verger</i>	Davis Cooke	Greg Shields
<i>Acolytes</i>	Clara Tinsley, Anna Chamberlain Joaquim Chamberlain, Sawyer Jacobson	Nicholas Eppheimer, James Stephenson, Rachel Tinsley, Pierce Ellis
<i>Choir</i>	Adult Choir	Adult Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Joynice Gladey, Mary Plumley	Joynice Gladey, Jim Greene
<i>Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Kathy Gregg	
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Ray Swann	Cathy Green
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Andy Lund, Hank Newman	Jane White, Kathy Carter
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Pati Carter, Terry Courtemanche Trudy Thompson	Pennie Martin, Anne Scott Clement, Lisa Godbey

Eucharistic Candles given by: Harold Newman in memory of Laura Simons Newman, Maynard Newman, Eleanor Maynard Newman, Harold Hastings Newman, Ada Jenkins Simons, John Thompson Simons, Judy Newman

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Gene Krueger in memory of Abigail Burroughs, Kathleen Dunn

Altar Flowers given by: Reg Boland in memory of Katherine Lingerfelt Boland, Sidney R. Boland, Barbara Ann Johnson



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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