

WELCOME TO

ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

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 on the offering plate.

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

The Rev. James Franklin, *Guest Priest*

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*

Fernando Lopez, *Facility & Event Assistant*

Come and See
the *difference* Christ makes



THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN IN PROCESSION #61 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us Sung by all, standing. Wachet auf

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Please be seated. led by the Lipscomb family

Family leader: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

All: **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.** The third Advent candle is lit.Family leader: O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle shines, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name: through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION S-100

Sung by all, kneeling.

New Plainsong, David Hurd

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY Please remain kneeling.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**Celebrant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING Please be seated.

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him

Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *Sung by the Choir*

Tone IV.4

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #497 How bright appears the Morning Star

Wie schön leuchtet

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

The Rev. James Franklin

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand.*

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Please kneel or stand.*

After each petition, we respond:

Intercessor: For this we pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Please kneel.*

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.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE *Please stand.*

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

People: And also with you.

JESSE TREE ORNAMENTS AND PRAYER *Please be seated.*

Eliza Lipscomb, reader

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 on 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 on the Offering Plate or given online at www.SLS.church/give

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Glory (Messiah)

George F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

THE DOXOLOGY Hymn #56, stanzas 7 and 8

Please stand, all sing.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **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.**

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, Father ... and glorify your Name:

SANCTUS S-124

Sung by all.

New Plainsong, David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,**

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise ...

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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 S-154

Sung by all.

David Hurd

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

HYMN AT COMMUNION #60 Creator of the stars of night

Conditor alme siderum

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand or kneel.*

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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.

THE BLESSING

HYMN IN PROCESSION #74 Blest be the King whose coming

Valet will ich dir geben

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme

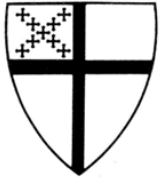
Wayne Wold

Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Bob Setzer, Andrew and Susanna Lund, Erik Lipscomb, Pennie Martin	Stephanie Phoenix, Tyler Speir, Sandy Goodman, Will Goodnight
<i>Greeter</i>	Pennie Martin	Pennie Martin
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Greg Shields	Pennie Martin
<i>Lectors</i>	Lee Piper, Luke Hamaty	Robin Swanson, Dick Martin
<i>Chalicians</i>	Kathy Carter, Pati Carter	Chip Carter, Penny Roemer
<i>Intercessor</i>	Robin Swanson	Penny Roemer
<i>Verger</i>	Reg Boland	Michelle Whitson
<i>Acolytes</i>	Malachi Whitson, Ruby Corriher, Marlee Spier, Sawyer Jacobson	Anna Chamberlain, Joaquim Chamberlain, James Stephenson, Jiselle Samolu
<i>Choir</i>	Adult Choir	Adult Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Joynice Gladey, Eliza Breese	Joynice Gladey, Caroline Stephenson
<i>Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Kathy Gregg	
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Reg Boland	Davis Cooke, Ray Swann
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Tyler Ellis, Ray Swann	Tyler Ellis, Kathy Carter
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Lynn Bolick, Eunice Gladey, Mary Ann McCubbin	Katie Setzer, Meredith Ellis, Laura Greene

Eucharistic and Office Candles given by: James and Rachel Dunn in memory of James Allan Dunn, Sr., Lois Sanford Dunn, Mary Dunn Goodman, Lois Dunn Lore, Grover Watson Allen, Carter Bailey Allen, Dolores Allen Swaim

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Reg Boland in memory of Katherine L. Boland, Sidney R. Boland, II, Barbara Ann Johnson and by Richard Brownell in memory of Lorraine Naylor Brownell

Altar Flowers given by: Bethany Fortner in memory of Diana Spencer Storey and Kit Goughenour



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

2025: Reg Boland, Hank Newman, Andrew Lund

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

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

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

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