

WELCOME TO
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

+++

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST

AUGUST 16, 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*

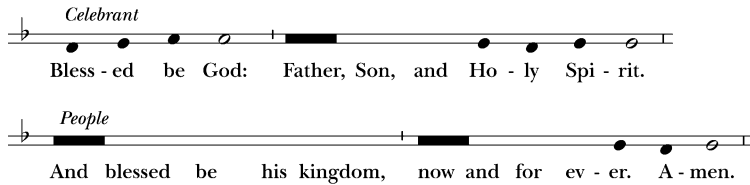
Come and See
the difference Christ makes



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on "Salvation Now Has Come for All" Anonymous
William McConnell, guest organist

HYMN IN PROCESSION #51 We the Lord's people *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: Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING *Please be seated.* **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant-these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in **unity**!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the **head** *
that runs down upon the **beard**,
- 3 Upon the beard of **Aaron**, *
and runs down upon the collar of his **robe**.
- 4 It is like the dew of **Hermon** *
that falls upon the hills of **Zion**.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the **blessing**: * [2nd half]
life for ever**more**.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

#277 Sing of Mary, pure and lowly

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 15: 10-20-28

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

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and

goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 S.; 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 Elizabeth “Betty” Little, 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 & ABSOLUTION *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.

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 Art the Way

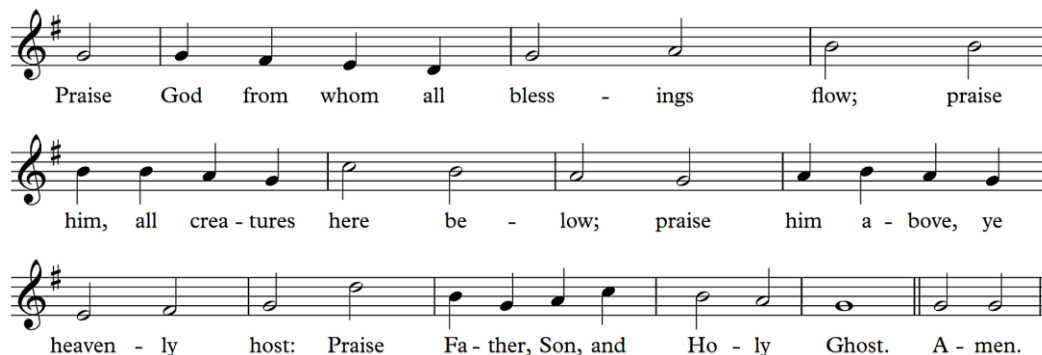
Robert Edward Smith

*Thou art the Way, to thee alone from sin and death we flee.
and who would the Father seek, must seek him, Lord, by thee.
Thou art the Truth, thy word alone true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind and purify the heart.
Thou art the Life, the rending tomb proclaims thy conquering arm.
And those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.
Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: Grant us the way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.*

*(Text by Bishop George Washington Doane,
based on John 14:6, written in 1824)*

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

Hymnal 1982



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 #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.*

#530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Hymnal 1982

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Toccata in E minor

Johann Pachelbel

William McConnell 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.

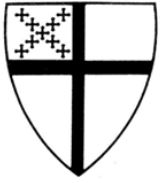
Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Will Goodnight, Stewart Ash, Tyler Speir, Sandy Goodman	Pati Carter, Cris Leckonby, Stewart Ash, Hank Newman
<i>Greeter</i>	Will Goodnight	Pati Carter
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Stewart Ash	Cris Leckonby
<i>Lectors</i>	Graham Corriher, Luke Hamaty	Davis Cooke, Cris Leckonby
<i>Chalicists</i>	Bain Jones, Penny Roemer	Kathy Carter, Pennie Martin
<i>Intercessor</i>	Penny Roemer	Robin Swanson
<i>Verger</i>	Graham Corriher	Davis Cooke
<i>Acolytes</i>	Anna Chamberlain, Joaquim Chamberlain, James Stephenson, Jiselle Samolu	Malachi Whitson, Marlee Speir, Stephanie Collins, Ben Dunkin
<i>Choir</i>	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Katie Leckonby, Caroline Stephenson	Katie Leckonby, Mary Plumley
<i>Children's Church</i>	Katie Leckonby, Caroline Stephenson	Caroline Stephenson, Hannah Jacobson
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Ray Swann	Cathy Green
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Penny Roemer, Mary Ann McCubbin	Brian Whitson, Jane White
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Barb Whenal, Ann Dandison, Reg Boland	Lynn Bolick, Eunice Gladey, Mary Ann McCubbin

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: Mrs. James Simms and Sons in memory of James Edward Simms, James William Simms



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)

All music printed with permission: OneLicense.net A-725767