

WELCOME TO
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST

JULY 26, 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

PRELUDE

The Me in Me

Mark Burrows

*Another day, another project, another test to take.
Will there ever be a break to make a brand new start,
to hear what's calling in my heart?
What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be?
Where is the room, where is the time, when can I find the me in me?*

*Another day, another practice, another game to play.
Will there ever be a way to find what makes me whole,
to learn what's stirring in my soul?
What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be?
Where is the room, where is the time, when can I find the me in me?*

*How can I know my truest self when I'm always over-booked?
What if I found God gave me gifts that were always over-looked?
What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be?
Where is the room, where is the time, when can I find the me in me?
The me in me!*

Music & Arts Camp Singers

God Calls Us All

Mark Burrows

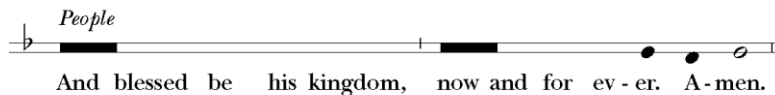
*One day God called Jeremiah when he was just a kid.
But Jeremiah felt unworthy. He nearly ran and hid.
'Til God said, "Do not be afraid, for I will be with you.
I'll help you know what words to say. I'll show you what to do."
He was called (He was called) / He was called (He was called).
Just the way he was, he was called.
He was called (He was called) / He was called (He was called).
At one time or another, (or another,) God calls us all!*

*Mary and her sister Martha were at their house one day,
when Jesus came and Mary listened to what he had to say.
But Martha cooked and ran about. She thought her way was best,
'til Jesus calmly called to her to sit and learn and rest.*

Music & Arts Camp Singers

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

Book of Common Prayer, 323



THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

GLORIA S-231 *Benedictus es, Domine*, Canticle 13

Sung by all.

Hymnal 1982

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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.*

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



- 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**.
- 7 He is the Lord our **God**; *
his judgments prevail in all the **world**.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his **covenant**, *
the promise he made for a thousand **generations**:
- 9 The covenant he made with **Abraham**, *
the oath that he swore to **Isaac**,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for **Jacob**, *
an everlasting covenant for **Israel**,
- [2nd half]
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of **Canaan** *
to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45b Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING*Please be seated.***Romans 8:26-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It

is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

#488 Be thou my vision

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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; 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” Ralston, 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.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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

I Will Stand

Mark Burrows

*Who will stand for the boy who's always picked on? Who will help bring his sadness to an end?
Who will show him that he's a child of blessing? Who will stand? Who will dare to be a friend?*

*I will stand for this child of God's own making. I will stand, I will lend a helping hand.
I will stand up so he will never stand alone. I will stand! I will stand! I will stand!*

*Who will stand for the girl who knows she's diff'rent? Who will tell her that we're all diff'rent, too?
Who will show her that she's a child of blessing? Who will stand? Who will help her make it through?*

*When you stand for peace and kindness, when you stand for what is true,
then a light of love shines in your heart. Now let that light shine through!*

*Who will stand for the hungry and homeless? Who will reach out when others turn away?
Who will show them they're each a child of blessing? Who will stand? Who will be there come what may?*

*We will stand for each child of God's own making. We will stand, we will lend a helping hand.
We will stand up 'til no one ever stands alone.*

Music & Arts Camp Singers

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

Hymnal 1982

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Please remain standing.

BCP 367

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... Holy and gracious Father:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

People: **AMEN.**

Celebrant: 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 MUSIC

Hymn #711 Seek ye first

Hymnal 1982

Hymn #712 Dona nobis pacem

Anthem

I Hold You in My Heart

Mark Burrows

*Let my heart be open. Help me hear your call.
May your power guide me, and catch me if I fall.*

*Guide me on my journey. Help me know your way.
Give me faith and courage in what I do and say.*

*I know you'll be there with me. You've been there from the start.
You hold me in your hand, dear Lord. I hold you in my heart.*

*In times when I feel frightened, alone and insecure,
I feel your presence with me. Your love is ever sure.*

*Here I am, your servant. Send me, I will go.
I will be your hands, Lord, and help your love to grow (your love to grow).
I know you'll be there with me. You've been there from the start.*

You hold me in your hand, dear Lord. I hold you in my heart, in my heart.

Music & Arts Camp Singers

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 #376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee *Sung by all.* *Hymnal 1982*

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.* Worthy! Mark Burrows

*Worthy! I will live a life worthy;
worthy of the calling I have received!*

*I will be tireless, I will be fearless,
being my best to serve those in need.
Watching and waiting, hearing and helping,
heeding the call to go where God leads.*

*Filled with a passion, filled with a purpose,
filled with the power of God's love.*

Worthy of the call. God calls us all!

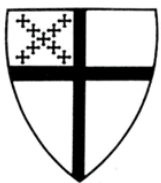
*Music & Arts Camp Singers
From the musical "CALLED"*

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 Eppheimer
<i>Greeter</i>	Pati Carter	Malachi Whitson
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Cris Leckonby	Brian Whitson
<i>Lectors</i>	Davis Cooke, Dick Martin	Mary Ann McCubbin, Chip Carter
<i>Chalicists</i>	Stephen Collins, Pennie Martin	Stephanie Phoenix, Ray Swann
<i>Intercessor</i>	Malachi Whitson	Jane White
<i>Vergers</i>	Davis Cooke	Ray Swann
<i>Acolytes</i>	Nicholas Eppheimer, Emma Stephenson, Malachi Whitson, Salem Griffith	Nick Clement, Millie Klauder, Pierce Ellis, Sawyer Jacobson
<i>Choir</i>	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
<i>Nursery & Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Jim and Laura Greene	Caroline Stephenson, Cris Leckonby
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Davis Cooke	Davis Cooke
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Ray Swann, Penny Roemer	Sarah Wooten, Andrew Jacobson
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Pennie Martin, Anne Scott Clement, Lisa Godbey	Kay Ash, Rebekah Kelly, Laura Thompson

Eucharistic and Office Candles given by: Edward Norvell in memory of Mary Linn Norvell, Edwin Overman Norvell, Lucille Proctor Norvell, Jane Overman Norvell Wagoner

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Nan Medley in memory of Grover Lee Medley

Altar Flowers given by: The Goodman Family in memory of Harold M. Goodman, Edward M. Murphy, Marion Goodman Murphy, Harold David Goodman, Judy Main Goodman



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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