

WELCOME TO
ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

Fideles / Folk Tune

Percy Whitlock

HYMN IN PROCESSION #477 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine *Hymnal 1982*

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Book of Common Prayer, 355

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

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: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



- 1 Hear my teaching, O my **people**; *
incline your ears to the words of my **mouth**.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a **parable**; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient **times**.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have **told us**, *
we will not hide from their **children**.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the **Lord**, *
and the wonderful works he has **done**.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their **forefathers**, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of **Zoan**.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass **through**; *
he made the waters stand up like **walls**.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by **day**, *
and all the night through with a glow of **fire**.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the **wilderness** *
and gave them drink as from the great **deep**.
- 16 He brought streams out of the **cliff**, * [2nd half]
and the waters gushed out like **rivers**.

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

#414 God, my King, thy might confessing

Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Darby Everhard

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 Reg, Kayla, Mary Ann, and Prisse; 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

Teach me, O Lord
Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I
shall keep it unto the end. (Psalm 119:33)

Thomas Attwood

THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.

Duke Street

*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.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Please remain standing.

BCP 367

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up 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 #343 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*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.*

#400 All creatures of our God and King

*Hymnal 1982***THE DISMISSAL**

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

People: Thanks be to God.

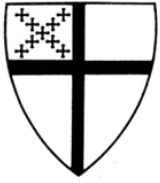
Servers	<i>Today</i>	<i>Next Sunday</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	Malachi Whitson, Brian Whitson, Hank Newman, Trevor Eppehimer	Andy & Susanna Lund, Pennie Martin, Bob Setzer, Erik Lipscomb
<i>Greeter</i>	Malachi Whitson	Andy & Susanna Lund
<i>Emergency Response</i>	Brian Whitson	Pennie Martin
<i>Lectors</i>	Pennie Martin, Robin Swanson	Dick Martin, Luke Hamaty
<i>Chalicians</i>	Stephen Collins, Pennie Martin	Stephanie Phoenix, Penny Roemer
<i>Intercessor</i>	Graham Corriher	Chip Carter
<i>Verger</i>	Graham Corriher	Greg Shields
<i>Acolytes</i>	Nick Clement, Stephanie Collins, John Graham Corriher, Ben Dunkin	Anna Chamberlain, Joaquim Chamberlain, Millie Klauder, Sawyer Jacobson
<i>Choir</i>	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
<i>Nursery</i>	Katie Leckonby, Mary Plumley	Katie Leckonby, Laura Greene
<i>Children's Church</i>	Caroline Stephenson, Hannah Jacobson	Caroline Stephenson, Jim Greene
<i>Vestry Deposit</i>	Tyler Ellis, Mary Ann McCubbin	Kathy Carter, Brian Whitson
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ann Dunn, Alex Dunn, Dora Wood, Tyler Breese, Eliza Breese	Barb Whenal, Ann Dandison
<i>Wednesday Server</i>	Davis Cooke	Ann Dunn

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: Susan, Pete, Peggy & Cathy Green in memory of Joan and Paul Green



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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