

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church (NALC)
"A Traditional and Biblical Church"
740 N Center Street, Statesville NC 28677
Call: 704-873-0222 , Email: stjohnsluth740@gmail.com.
Website -www.stjohnsnalcstsv.org, **Facebook** - @stjohnsnalc
YouTube -<https://www.youtube.com/@saintjohns399>

P/L) Pastor/Lector

C) Congregation

We sit

Psalm 51 is read responsively by whole verse. (ESV)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. **¹⁴Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

We Stand

Opening Hymn: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

EXHORTATION

P)Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation.

But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

CONFESSION

P) Most holy and merciful Father:

C) We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P) We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C) Have mercy on us, Lord.

P) We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C) Have mercy on us, Lord.

P) We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C) we confess to you, Lord.

P) Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C) we confess to you, Lord.

P) Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C) we confess to you, Lord.

P) Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C) we confess to you, Lord.

P) Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C) we confess to you, Lord.

P) Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C) accept our repentance, Lord.

P) For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C) accept our repentance, Lord.

P) For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C) accept our repentance, Lord.

P) Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C) Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and kneel before the altar.

P) Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire ashes have received them and returned to their seats.

P) Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C) *that we may show forth your glory in the world.*

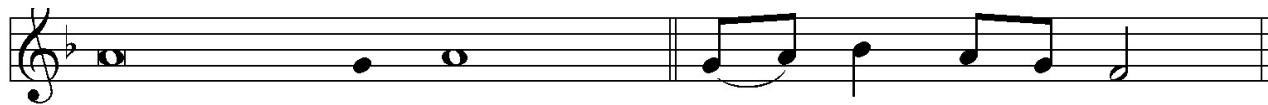
P) By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C) bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P) Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C) Amen

Prayer of the Day



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

P) Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

We Sit

First Lesson: Joel 2:12-19 ¹²“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

L) The Word of the Lord.

C) **Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 ^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹ Working

together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L) The Word of the Lord.

C) **Thanks be to God**

We stand

The Gospel Proclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

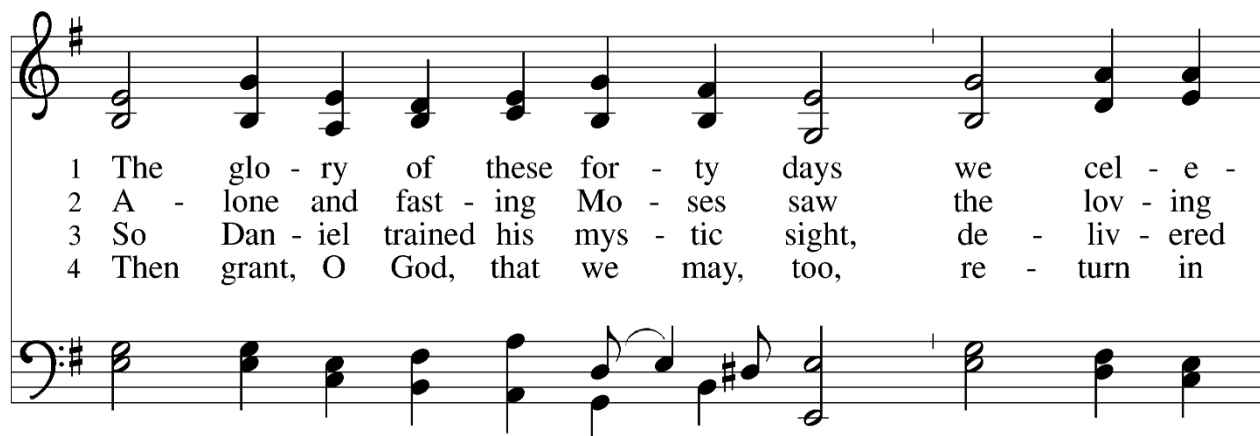
P) The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

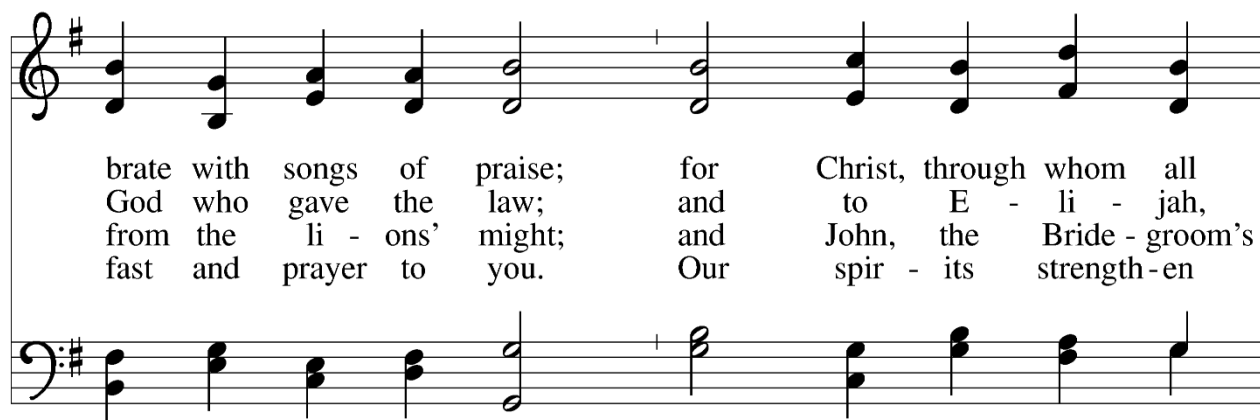
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 ¹ {Jesus said,} “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² Thus, when you give to the

Hymn of the Day: "The Glory of These Forty Days"

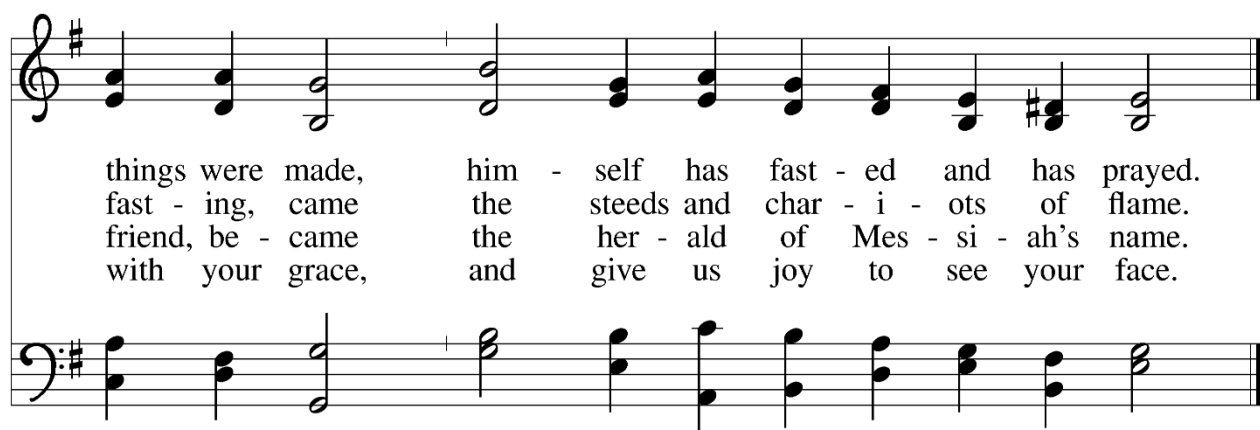
The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

P) Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the Nicene Creed.

**C) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

We sit

The Prayers

P) Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each of the prayer petitions

P) Lord, in your mercy,

C) **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude

P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C) **Amen**

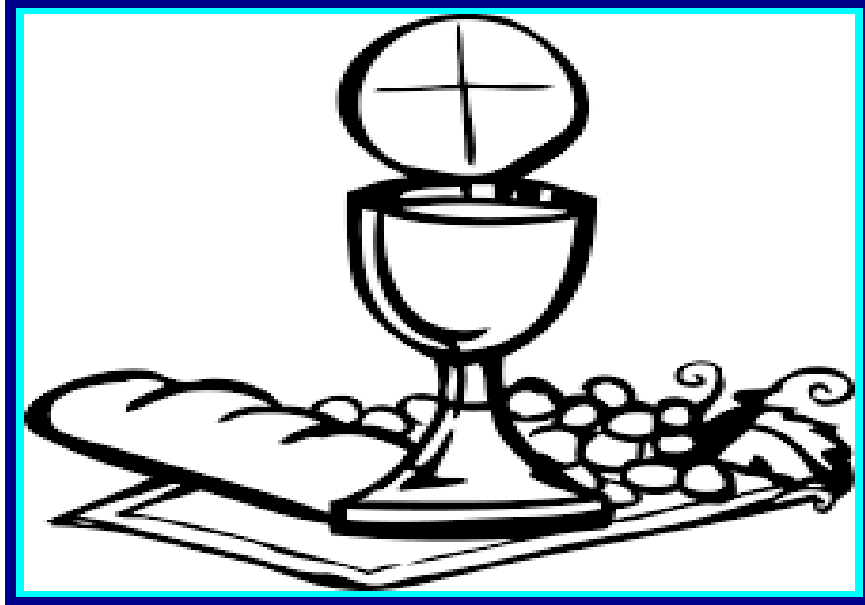
The Peace

P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C) **And also with you.**

Offering: *Please put your offering in the offering plates.*





Anthem: "Change My Heart O God"

Chorus

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You

Verse

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

We Stand

P) Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C) O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

HOLY COMMUNION

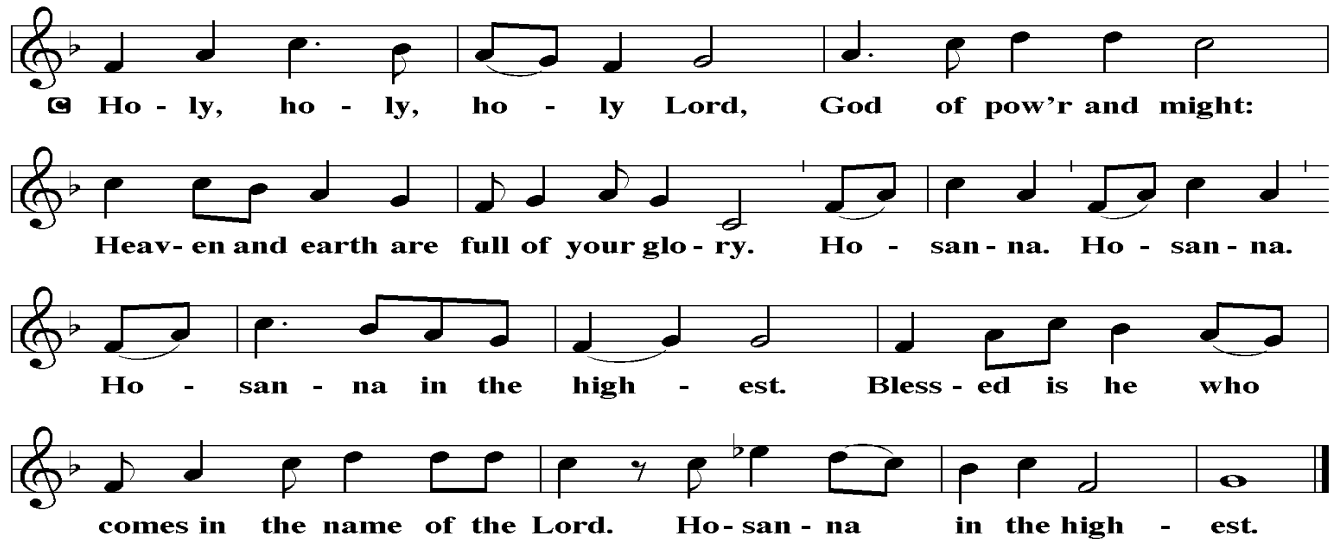
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into four systems, each with a single staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes, and the music is simple and hymn-like in style.

THE PREFACE

P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, Oh Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Words of Institution

P) Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C) Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of

me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

The Lord's Prayer

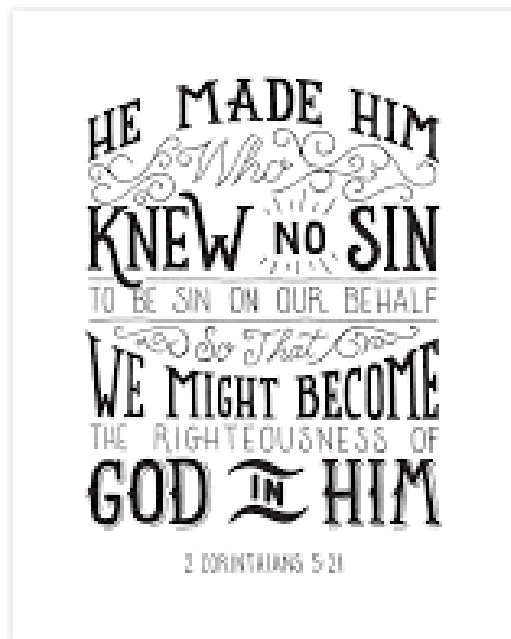
**C) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

We Sit

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

ASH WEDNESDAY

First Day of Lent



Communion Hymn:

“Just As I Am”

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

We Stand

Post Communion Blessing

P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C) **Amen**

The Post Communion Canticle



☒ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

Post-Communion Prayer

C) **Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Blessing

- P) The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

- Numbers 6: 24-26

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C) **Amen**



Recessional Hymn: "Savior When in Dust To You"

Savior, When in Dust to You

1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due;
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,

when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes;
 by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
 by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
 by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
 oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,

bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Dismissal

P) Jesus said to his disciples: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **John 14:27**

P) Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Disciples Serving Today

Interim Pastor: Pastor Stanley Organist: Darin Kennedy
Parish Administrator: Susan Free Crucifer: Chuck Goode
Lector: David Pope Communion Assistant: David Pope
Altar Guild: Janice and Phil Mills
Video Team: Bill Muffley, Rosie Muffley, Cecil Talbot, Alonzo Burger, Randy Tedder

Serving Next Week: Crucifer: Tammy Combs
Lector: Brenda Dunn Communion Assistant: Daniel Dunn

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If you would like to be a member of St. John's, please fill out a white card found on the back of the pew and put it in an offering plate.

Lessons for Next Week: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Caring Ministries Prayer Concerns

Members:

Leatha Lanford – multiple health concerns
Ray Rabe - multiple health concerns
Anita Johnson – multiple health concerns
Terry Barnes multiple health concerns
Frank Mitchell – multiple health concerns
Ann Bejcek – multiple health concerns
Diane and Harold Wilson – multiple health concerns
Joyce Proksch – multiple health concerns

4% is \$38,227.80

20% for outreach in the community 7,645.56

20% for missions of NALC and worldwide 7,645.56

40% for capital improvements at St. John's 15,291.12

20% at discretion of the committee may be distributed among any of the above three categories 7,645.56

38,227.80

Our new pastor, Dale Stanley will be here March 3. His ordination will be March 22, here at St. John's.

Monthly

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and April 9 at 5:30 we will have a “**Soup and Sandwich**” meal followed by Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6:30. **A Sign-up sheet** for soup and sandwiches is in the hall.

Men's Fellowship is the First Tuesday at 6:00pm. Our next get together is March 11, 2025. We will meet at Mama's Pizza Express 721 Sullivan Road <https://g.co/kgs/nvkvxNv>

Council is the Second Monday at 6:30 pm. The Council will meet on March 10, 2024.

Women in God's Service (WINGS) GATHERING will be on Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 am in the **FELLOWSHIP HALL** (*please note change*). The devotional is ***Faith to Tackle the Storms***. Following refreshments and a short business session, we will have a **SILENT AUCTION** for a donation to **DIASTER RELIEF**.

Please bring an item(s) that you no longer use/need that is in good condition.

And don't forget your money for bidding! Invite a friend and come join your **Sisters in Christ!**

WINGS MISSION PROJECT for **MARCH** is a **SILENT AUCTION** with monies going to **DIASTER RELIEF FUND**. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to donate an item for the auction, place it in the **WINGS tub** in the **NARTHEX** **by Monday, March 10th.**

Fun and Fellowship is every other month. March 18,2025 is the next time we gather for Fun and Fellowship at 11:00.

Missional Ministries

2nd Sunday Each month we collect Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal for **ICM(Iredell Christian Ministries)**. Place your donations in the red wagon in the front of the church.

3rd Sunday Each month we collect for our "**Baby Pack**" ministry. We need: new sleepers, hats, bibs, burp cloths, wash cloths, receiving blanket, and a small toy or rattle for newborn/infant sizes. Use the back entrance and leave your gifts in the crib at the bottom of the steps.

4th Sunday Each month we collect for the **WINGS MISSION PROJECT**.

Disaster Preparedness Event – Sponsored by Foresters Financial

We need volunteers on March 29 at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall to help fill Go-Bags that will be distributed for free at the Disaster Preparedness class on April 5 at St. John's.

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer: Join us on March 29 to help prepare the emergency Go-Bags.
- Attend the Class: Sign up for the Disaster Preparedness class by signing the sheet on the lectern in the Hall by the Sanctuary. This will be held at 10:30am on April 5th in the Fellowship Hall.

Important Details:

- Each family (adults 18 years and older) is eligible for one free kit.
- Attendance at the class is required to receive your kit.
- Any questions: see or text Teri Roberts #704-438-6351

Thank you for helping us prepare our community for emergencies!