

Welcome

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship

Rev. Harvey Blume, Guest Pastor

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

*A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Glory Be to Jesus

arr. Gotsch

Please stand as you are able.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
- ⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
- ⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- ⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- ⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹²Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
- ¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁹Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

C **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.**

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)

Please be seated.

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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes are asked to come forward and kneel or stand before the altar. The minister will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: **Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.** After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister will lead the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

Please stand as able.

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

P Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen**

HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea

LBW 296

Please be seated.

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (green book)
WOV = With One Voice (blue book)

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.”

Here ends the reading.

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.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Here ends the reading.

Please stand as able.

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

C **Glory 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. ²Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Looking for Lent!

Pastor Harvey Blume

HYMN

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

WOV 734

Please stand as you are able.

NICENE CREED

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

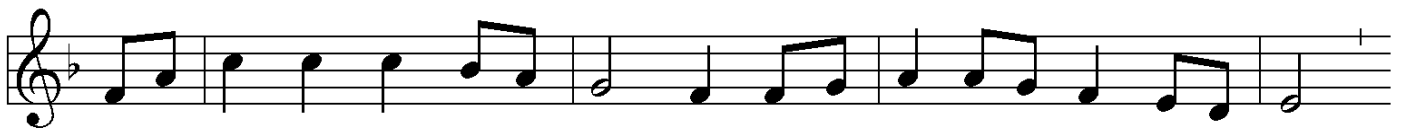
LENTEN OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

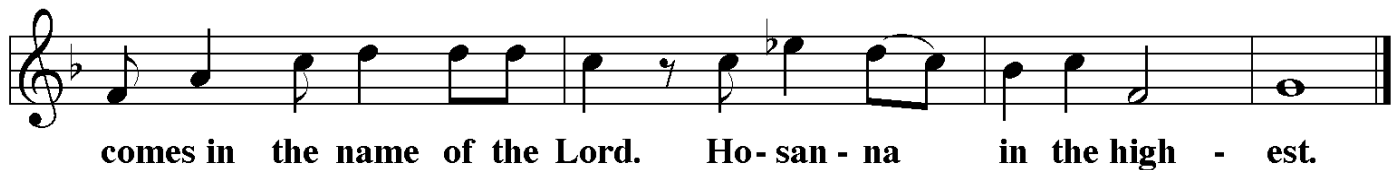
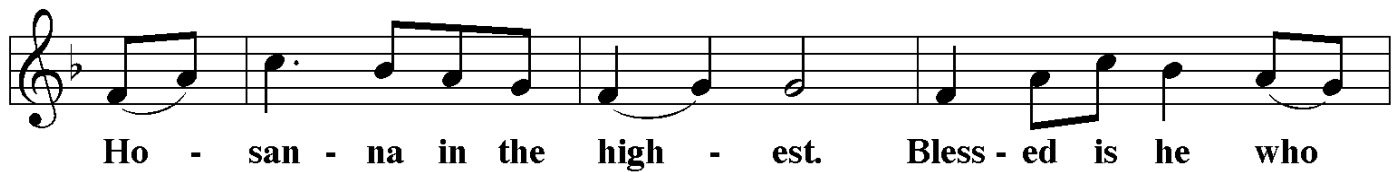
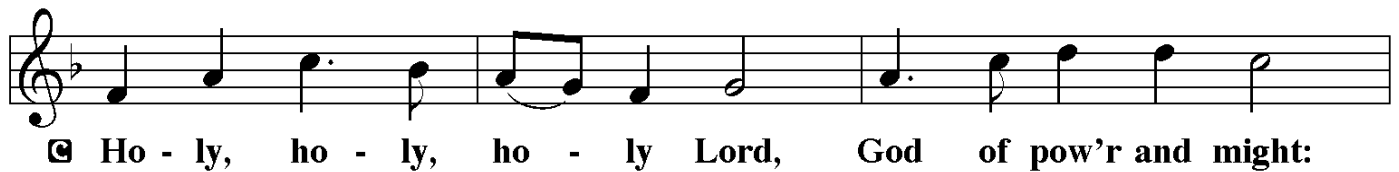
P Lift up your hearts.

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.**

P It is indeed right and salutary....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his 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.

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**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

All who are baptized and believe Christ is truly present within the elements of the bread and wine are welcome to God's table. Today we receive the sacrament by way of "intinction." After receiving the wafer, dip it into the wine. Grape juice is provided for anyone who is not able to receive the wine.

LAMB OF GOD

C 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.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

LENTEN POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



C 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

P Let us pray
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.

C Amen

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

HYMN

Abide with Me

LBW 272

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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