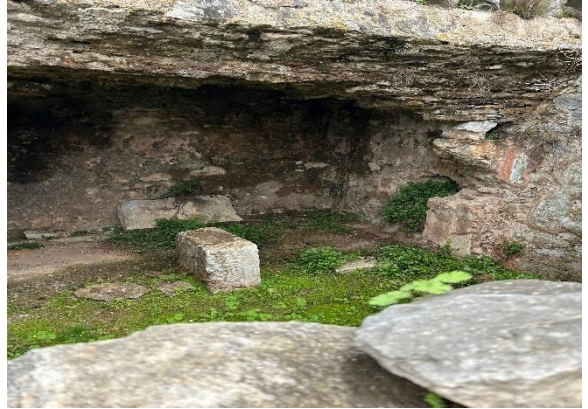




## Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road  
Salisbury, NC 28146  
704.636.5092  
office@ulcsalisbury.org  
www.ulcsalisbury.org



John – Revelation

Prison that Paul was held in.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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*“As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” were the words of the risen Lord to his disciples. Their task was to preach the good news of new life in Christ, forgive the sins of the repentant, and carry on Jesus’ ministry. With the power of the Holy Spirit given to them, they would carry on where Jesus left off, going into the world with the good news. Just as Jesus sent the eleven, so he sends all the baptized.*

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal  
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal  
P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

+++++

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1*

### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!* (Burkhardt)

*The altar candles are lit to represent Jesus’ life and ministry at this time.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Invocation (Matthew 28:19)

LBW p. 56

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9)

P Blessed are those who call on the strong name of the risen Lord! As we gather in the victorious name of Christ, let us open our hearts to him and confess the ways in which we have failed to follow his will, and the ways in which we simply neglected our calling as his disciples.

*Silence for self-reflection and examination*

P Lord of heaven and earth, of the living and of the dead, (Romans 14:9)

C **We come before you confessing our sins, asking for your gracious mercy. By our human nature we are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. By your lovingkindness, we implore you to grant us forgiveness and restore us to your salvation, that we might live holy lives here and now, and be with you in the final resurrection. Amen.**

Absolution (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 1:4)

P Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God declares to all who believe and confess their sins, that we are forgiven and restored to a right relationship through Jesus Christ. We have

been redeemed and renewed by Christ, our Passover Lamb. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit, let us walk in newness of life, following our Lord Jesus in holy obedience.

**C Amen.**

Hymn: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

WOV# 674

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

*Refrain*

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**2 Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.**

*Refrain*

**3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.**

*Refrain*

**4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: "O grace, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.**

*Refrain*

**5 City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, river of life,  
Saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain***

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Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987 Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Apostolic Greeting

**P Christ is Risen! (Luke 24:34; Matthew 28:6-7)**

**C He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who went to the cross for our sake;  
the love of the Father who put an end to the power of death through the resurrection of  
Christ; and the promised Holy Spirit who gathers us together, be with you all. (2 Corinthians  
13:14, Acts 1:4, 2:24; Romans 6:4, 8:38-39; Matthew 18:20)**

**C And also with you.**

Kyrie (Mark 10:47)

LBW p. 57-58

**P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.**

**C And also with you.**

**P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.**

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen**

Hymn of Praise (*Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9*)

LBW p. 60-61

C **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation (*2 Timothy 4:22*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

New Testament Lesson: Acts 5:12-32

The first lesson is written from the 5th chapter of Acts.

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. <sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. <sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 148:1-14 *The Psalm of the Day is sung in unison.*

**C** <sup>1</sup>**Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;\* praise him | in the heights.**  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\* praise him, | all his host.**  
<sup>3</sup>**Praise him, | sun and moon;\* praise him, all you | shining stars.**  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\* and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>**Let them praise the name | of the LORD;\* for he commanded, and they | were created.**  
<sup>6</sup>**He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\* he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup>**Praise the LORD | from the earth,\* you sea monsters | and all deeps;**

**<sup>8</sup>Fire and hail, | snow and fog,\* tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;  
<sup>9</sup>Mountains | and all hills,\* fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>Wild beasts | and all cattle,\* creeping things and | winged birds;  
<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth | and all peoples,\* princes and all rulers | of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>Young | men and maidens,\* old and | young together.  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,\* for his name only is exalted, his splendor  
is over | earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his | loyal servants,\* the  
children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

New Testament Lesson: Revelation 1:4-18

The second lesson is written from the 1st chapter of Revelation.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” <sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

L Here ends the reading.

Children’s Message & Noisy Offering

*Children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Message.*

*Children will return to sit with their families following the noisy offering collected for Lutheran Services Carolinas.*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Gospel Acclamation (John 6:68)

LBW p. 62

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20th chapter.**

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

*Please be seated.*

Sermon: *No Secret Identity: Obey*

Pastor Heidi Punt

*Sermon Focus on Revelation & Acts scriptures*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Hymn of the Day: *Before You, Lord, We Bow*

LBW# 401

- 1 Before you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to you, our king!**
- 2 The nation you have blest may well your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, protected by your care.  
For this bright day, for this fair land-gifts of your hand-our thanks we pay.**
- 3 May ev'ry mountain height, each vale and forest green,  
Shine in your Word's pure light, and its rich fruits be seen!**

- May ev'ry tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grateful song.**
- 4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice; your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone. Cast down your pride,  
Your sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified.**
- 5 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king salvation's song!**

Text: Francis S. Key, 1779-1843, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731-1789

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Nicene Creed (**Romans 10:9-10**)

LBW p. 64

**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**

*\*Or, We believe in one holy Christian*

Prayers of the Church (**1 Timothy 2:1-4**)

LBW p. 65

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

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**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**

Sharing of the Peace (*John 20:19*)

LBW p. 66

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

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

Offering (*Malachi 3:10*)

*The Offering is received while the Lord's Table is prepared.*

*All loose offering will go towards the Youth Mission & Retreats Fund.*

*The monthly benevolence focus is Lutheran Services Carolinas.*

Organ Offertory: *Before you, Lord, We Bow* (Culli)

### **MEAL**

*God invites us to His table.*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Offertory (*Isaiah 25:6-8; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17*)

LBW p. 66

**C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 67

(*Romans 12:1; Proverbs 3:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 9:7*)

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, 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 (*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*)

LBW p. 68-71

**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 . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8*)

LBW p. 69

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution (*32*)

LBW p. 69

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

**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 (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

LBW p. 71

**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.*

*Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.*

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.*

*All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.*

*Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.*

Agnus Dei (John 1:29)

LBW p. 72

**C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as able at the close of the table.*

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p. 72

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

**C** **Amen**

Post-Communion Cantic (1 Chronicles 16:7-31; Psalm 105:1-4)

LBW p. 72-73

**C** **Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

**P** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 74

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.

C Amen

Hymn: *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!*

LBW# 131

1 **Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!**  
**Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!**  
**Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;**  
**Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.**

*Refrain*

**Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!**  
**Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!**

2 **Christ is risen! All the sadness of our Lenten fast is o'er,**  
**Through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more;**  
**Death and hell before him bending see him rise, the victor now,**  
**Angels on his steps attending, glory round his wounded brow. *Refrain***

3 **Christ is risen! All the sorrow that last evening round him lay**  
**Now has found a glorious morrow in the rising of today.**  
**See the grave its first fruits giving, springing up from holy ground;**  
**He was dead, but now is living; he was lost, but he is found. *Refrain***

4 **Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall;**  
**Be we Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.**  
**All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased;**  
**Hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast. *Refrain***

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Blessing & Dismissal (Matthew 28:19-20)

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

## Postlude: *Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!* (Manz)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 pages 56-76

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### Attendance Update

April 17	56	Maundy Thursday
April 18	58	Good Friday
April 20	65	Sunrise Service
April 20	22	Easter Egg Hunt (Children & Union Youth)
April 20	16	Adult Sunday School
April 20	170	Worship & Holy Communion

### Lutherans at Worship



#### Glossary of Lutheran Terms

*Eucharist* (A name for Holy Communion; from the Greek for “thanksgiving.”)

*Eucharistic Prayer* (The Prayer of Thanksgiving which incorporates the Words of Institution, and which also recalls and thanks God for his mighty acts.)

*Evening Prayer* (Evening worship service of praise and prayer; also called Vespers.)

*Exsultet* (Proclamation of Easter in the Easter Vigil liturgy; the Latin for “rejoice.”)

(Lutherans at Worship by S. Anita Stauffer, Gilbert A. Doan, and Michael B. Aune page 92)

### Those Serving Today

**Organist:** Dawn Merrell

**Acolytes:** Mallory Eagle and Moses Miller

**Altar Guild and Communion Assistants:** Mallory Eagle, Patsy Lyerly, Moses Miller, Angie Poole, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Lay Readers:** Frank Merrell and Doris Shepherd

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Ron Chase, and Adam Thompson

**Sound System:** Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

**Live Streaming:** Pete Nguyen

**Offering Counters:** Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis, and Doris Shepherd

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## Union News

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### Sunday, April 27, 2025

*The loose offering will go towards the Youth Missions/Retreats Fund.*

The monthly benevolence focus is Lutheran Services Carolinas. A noisy offering will be collected during the Children's Message in support of Lutheran Services Carolinas.

*Please see a Mission Outreach member to purchase a \$10 ticket to reserve a BBQ Chicken Fundraiser plate on Friday, May 16.*

Deadline for May *Messenger* articles to the church office. (Due to Holy Week, the deadline for articles was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday with the newsletter being printed Friday, May 2.)

*Please see article (page 15) on Class of 2025 graduates to include in the May Messenger. Deadline to the church office is today.*

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Merrell and Franz Merrell by Frank and Dawn Merrell.

**9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School Opening (*Chapel*)

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Joel: Return to the Lord ~ Joel 2:1-2a, 10-17; Acts 3:17-21

*Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

The Lamb is Worthy ~ Psalm 118:15-29; Revelation 5:1-10

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School and Music

Joel: Return to the Lord ~ Joel 2:1-2a, 10-17; Acts 3:17-21

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Acts 5:12-32; Psalm 148:1-14; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31

Sermon: *No Secret Identity: Obey*

*Sermon Focus on Revelation & Acts scriptures*

**2:00 p.m.** Church Council

**4:00 p.m.** Luther League at Organ Lutheran Church

### This Week's Schedule

Monday, April 28

**10:00 a.m.** Team Members meeting at Sam's Club for BBQ event

Tuesday, April 29

**6:30 p.m.** James Bible Study

Wednesday, April 30

**4:00 p.m.** James Bible Study

**6:30 p.m.** Belles & Beaus

Wednesday, April 30           **6:30 p.m.** Catechism Confirmation  
Thursday, May 1               National Day of Prayer  
Friday, May 2                 May *Messenger* & Handouts printed

The following were elected to serve as Union Lutheran Church's representatives for the Carolinas Mission Region & Piedmont-East District from Friday, May 2-Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Christ's Lutheran Church, Stanley, NC, with Pastor Heidi Punt: Susan Knight (delegate) and Deena Lanning (alternate).

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

*The loose offering will go towards the Mission Outreach Fund.*

The monthly benevolence focus is North American Lutheran Seminary.

*Please see a Mission Outreach member to purchase a \$10 ticket to reserve a BBQ Chicken Fundraiser plate on Friday, May 16.*

During the month of May, the congregation is invited to collect items for Footprints in the Community. (Items list coming soon!)

*Sharon Leazer has reserved the Altar Flowers for Sunday, May 4.*

**9:20 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School Opening (*Chapel*)

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Thomas Believes Again ~ John 20:24-31; Jude 1:17-25

*Jesus said, "Put your finger here, and see my hands;*

*and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:27)*

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

David's Sacrifice ~ 2 Peter 3:11-18; 1 Chronicles 21:1-22:1

**9:30 a.m.** Children & Youth Sunday School and Music

Thomas Believes Again ~ John 20:24-31; Jude 1:17-25

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 30:1-12; Revelation 5:1-14; John 21:1-14, 15-19

*Sermon Focus on Revelation & Acts scriptures*

**2:00 p.m.** Christian Education Umbrella

**4:00 p.m.** Little Lutherans (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger)

Program: *What a Mess* (Please wear clothes that can get messy!)

This year the **Class of 2025** graduates will be recognized during the **10:30 a.m.** worship service on **Mother's Day, May 11**. This is a very special day in our congregation as we will recognize and give thanks to God for various members of the **Class of 2025** who are part of our church or our church's extended family during worship.

If you are or are a family member of a high school or college/tech graduate (whether or not you will be able to make it Sunday, May 11), please contact the church office with your graduate's full name, school from which they are graduating, and what the next steps are in life (enrolling in another school or degree program, headed to the workforce, or whatever may be next) along with a headshot. So that we can be sure to have plenty of time to prepare, **PLEASE HAVE THIS INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE by Sunday, April 27**.

The church office has the following as graduates for 2025: Adam Thompson from (East Rowan High School), and Abbey Deaton (Cabarrus College of Health Sciences), Ellie Wilhelm (Lenoir-Rhyne University), and Ethan Wilhelm (NCSSU).

*Everyone is invited to financially support Mary Hutchens' July Mission Trip to Slovakia. Please mark on your check & envelope "Mary Hutchens Trip."*

*If you would like to give online please click on the following link: <https://sonetwork.org/give/> and make sure to select for Mary Hutchens July Slovakia Trip.*

*Deadline is May 15, 2025.*

### **WESTERN NC MISSION TRIPS**

(June 1-7, 2025 and July 13-19, 2025)

We need YOUR help to minister to the people of Western NC! All that is required is to be willing to serve God's people and share His heart and hands.

Areas of need: clean up, paint, construction, plumbing, electrical, etc.

Commitment & Registration Forms are available from Pastor Heidi for those participating in one and/or both of the mission trips to Western NC.

Cost is \$450 per person per week (includes: accommodation, meals, and some supplies for the actual mission project that NALC Disaster has assigned ULC to.)

For youth 16 years or younger, a parent/guardian adult must also attend.

*If you haven't already done so, please fill out the Medical Information Form to assist the Emergency Response Team if there is an emergency during the worship service or an activity/event. Thank you!*

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

**Nursing Homes** – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201) & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

**Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs** – Sarah Bame, Tom Cole, Kiki Deaton, Rachel Earnhardt, Madison “Drew” Harrington, Linda Hartley, Pete Honbarrier, Howell and Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Doris Ludwick, Donnell Miller, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Steve Arey, Debbie Cauble-McPherson, Rev. Randall Cauble (ICU), Patsy Lyerly, Richard Lyons, Jr., Jamie Troutman, Wayne & Pam Vellines

**Continual Prayer** – Bill Barringer (Larry Barringer’s brother), Rev. Doug Hefner Family (daughter died in car accident), Tommy Lamb (Pam Vellines’ uncle), Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines’ friend), Jeff Matthews (cancer patient), Tammy Winge (Mark Hunter’s cousin), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), especially for our NC neighbors affected by natural disasters & those affected by political disasters

**Prayers for Comfort:** Pastor Eenok Haamer (founder of Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia), Lela and Tyler Brooks, and Christian martyrs and persecution in the Congo

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**OUR MISSION:** Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~  
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

**OUR VISION:** “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

**OUR ACTION PLAN:** “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...” (Matthew 25:35-40)

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**2025 Church Council Members**

**2023-2025**

Ali Davis  
Vicki Hunter (Secretary)  
Sharon Leazer  
Dusty Morgan, Sr. (President)  
Debbie Rinehart

**2024-2026**

Phil Cauble  
Kevin Huffman  
John Knight (Treasurer)  
Thad Mulkey

**2025-2027**

Karen Barringer  
Pete Nguyen (Vice-President)  
Brad Trexler

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**Lay Ministers**

Tara Davis, Steve Hutchens, John Kesler, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

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**Union Lutheran Church**

Church Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor Heidi Punt, Senior Pastor (pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support (office@ulcsalisbury.org)

Pastor T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

