



... suddenly the heavens were opened to him
and he saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove ...

Matthew 3:16, NRSV

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

January 11th, 2026

2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

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Baptism of Our Lord: January 11th, 2026

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

***C: Amen.**

*P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

***C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

*P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

***C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

APOSTOLIC GREETING

*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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior

and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah the 42nd chapter

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests
bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

L: A reading from Acts the 10th chapter

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and

drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

*The Holy Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

*P: The Gospel of our Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Sermon

The Sermon

Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN OF DAY

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

*APOSTLES’ CREED

*A: Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

***C: I believe in God, the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL

P: Please be seated.

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

President & Youth: Jan McCulloh, Vice President & Indoor Property: Alan King, Treasurer: Linda Lambirth, Secretary: Kathy Lentz, Outreach: David Najarian, Outdoor Property: Frank King, Care of Congregation: Glenda Vickers, Christian Education: Nathan Pressley, Cemetery: Ken Kluttz, Worship & Music: Mark Shue.

P: *A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Please stand.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

***C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

***C: Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

***A:** As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and

all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Mary Miller, Friends of St. Peter's and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now...*(pause)*. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

***C: receive our prayer.**

*P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING

Anthem

Offering Hymn Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884

OFFERING PRAYER

*A: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.**

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***C: Holy, Holy, Holy**



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

***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.**

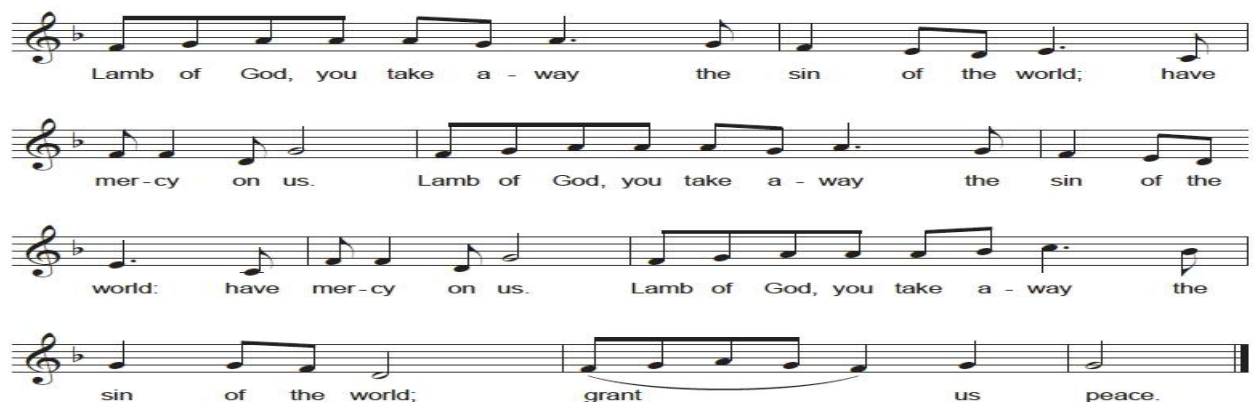
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*A: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve ELW 551**

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

*P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

**Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity*

Postlude