

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.

Salisbury, NC 28147

(704) 857-8641

www.grace-salisbury.com



7th Sunday of Easter Confirmation

May 17, 2026

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +

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+ Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +

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+ Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +

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+ Secretary Terri Brown +

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+ Director of Music Lynn Lippard +

+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +

+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +

+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +

+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ Those who are able please stand.
(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)

LBW = Green book
WOV = Blue book

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

+ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

LBW#526



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun-tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang-eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid - eth thee!

+ GREETING

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

And also with you.

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

⁶ When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“Go to the World”



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 “Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!”



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE RITE OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

for Jake Axle Basinger, Bayley Reese Carter, Abigail Rebecca Kluttz, Brody Lee Linker,
Cooper Andrew Miller, Kenley Gray Miller, Hudson Sloop Sechler, Kelsey Jean Sloop

PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Those making affirmation are presented by a sponsor:

Parents: We present (*confirmand's name*), who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The pastor lays both hands on the head of the person and says:

Stir up in (*confirmand's name*) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

+ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY SONG

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

+ PREFACE

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

DISTRIBUTION – All of God's children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together....

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

LBW#364



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<u>Serving 5/17/2026</u>		<u>Serving 5/24/2026</u>	
Organist	Teresa Yost	Organist	Becky Lippard
Children's Sermon	Sheila Basinger	Children's Sermon	Jamey Basinger
Lector	Marcus Reynolds	Lector	Myra Sechler
Communion Assistant	Sarah Nolan, Megan Bame	Communion Assistant	Sarah Nolan, Gene Stirewalt
Acolyte	Clara Linker	Acolyte	Hunter Ritchie
Crucifer	Annalyn Kluttz	Security Team	David Diggs, Chad Rivers
Security Team	Robert Hunter, Ted Lotti	Sound System	Hudson Sechler
Sound System	Chad Rivers	Teller Team	Duane Nolan, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop
Teller Team	Duane Nolan, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop	Ushers	Scottie & Monica Basinger, Connor & Baker
Ushers	Scottie & Monica Basinger, Connor & Baker		

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in honor of our confirmands.

MILES POPE MEMORIAL 5K will be held June 13. This is to raise funds for swim lessons for children. Please see Morgan or Sonny Pope for more details.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is today. A covered dish meal will be served in their honor following the worship service. We have 8 confirmands, our largest group in many years!

VBS HELPERS NEEDED Please let Sarah know if you are willing to help with Vacation Bible School June 19 or 20th. Needs include: a leader for games and shepherds to walk kids to each rotation. Thank you!

ORGAN DEDICATION will be on Sunday May 31 at 4:00pm.

SCHOLARSHIPS will be presented to students on Sunday, May 31st.

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S CHORUS will present their Spring Concert, "Voices Raised" this afternoon at 4pm in the Sanctuary at St John's Lutheran Church, 200 W Innes St, Salisbury. The concert will also feature the St John's Chancel Choir, Women's Ensemble, and the Luther Ringers. A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Terrie Hess Child Advocacy Center.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Setting 3 ELW

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This Week's Giving 05/10/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 186			
Current	\$ 4,842.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 56)	\$ 48.00		
Property Fund	\$ 50.00		
Altar Flowers	\$ 75.00		
Benevolence	\$ 160.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Rowan Helping Ministries	\$ 25.00		
Total Current	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 8,251.00	\$(3,001.00)
Tori Overcash Memorial (Fish Fry)	\$ 50.00		
Myles for Mission 5k	\$ 1,850.00		
Van Fund	\$ 50.00		
Lutheridge/Kids to Camp	\$ 500.00		
Facility Rental	\$ 300.00		
Cemetery	\$ 42.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 500.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 8,542.00		

Scan here for
online giving.



Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Monica Crossen, Shirley Stiller, Debbie Parris, Nancy Shue

Community Concerns:

Lily Gariepy (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Pastor David Drysdale (*Pastor Josh*), Lynn Potter (*Emily Copeland*), Tim & Judy Shue (*Mary Austin*), David Stirewalt (*Gene Stirewalt*), Kristie Thomas (*Jackie Hurlbut*)

Comfort:

Family and friends of Harold Overcash

Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Irene Miller, Ray Baker, Emily Weddington

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families; Our school teachers, staff and administrators