

# WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

† Those who are able are invited to stand      **Bold** indicates words spoken in unison

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

An order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church's encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world.

PRELUDE      Teresa de Freitas  
*Prelude on "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*  
Paul Fey

WELCOME & GREETING      Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP      Rev. Hannah Ostlund  
Through Adam, sin entered the world and death through sin. Death came to all people because all sinned. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.** God called Abram from his father's house to an unknown land of promise. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.** Through Moses, God provided water from a rock to a grumbling and thirsty people. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.** God looked not upon appearance but upon the heart and called the shepherd boy David to be King. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.** Through Ezekiel, God promised to bring life back into bones long dead and set the Holy Spirit upon us. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

† HYMN #216      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

CONFESSION OF SIN  
**Merciful God, hear the prayers of your thirsting and hungry people in need of your grace and mercy. Each time we find ourselves in the barren wilderness like our ancestors, we try to find the quickest way out and through. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubbornness prevents us from relinquishing all control. For each way we put our own needs and understanding above your wisdom, direct us the other way. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and quench our thirst with the life you bring forth from the wilderness. For Christ's sake, we pray.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† RESPONSE #581      *Glory Be to the Father*  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE      Ron Church

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE      Mark 1:12-13, p. 33

SCRIPTURE      Exodus 17:1-7, p. 61

SERMON      Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

*At the Cross*  
Carol Tornquist

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      Rev. Lara Musser Gritter  
*The Brief Statement of Faith*

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY      Sanctuary Choir  
*When Jesus Walked the Wilderness*  
Lloyd Larson

DOXOLOGY #606      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING TO SHARE THE WORD

† HYMN #81      *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fantasia on 'Jesu, meine Freude'*  
Paul Fey



## Welcome to First Pres

**We are so glad you are here, "Where God's Love is Alive for Mission."** Learn more at [www.firstpressalisbury.org](http://www.firstpressalisbury.org) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**FRIENDSHIP PADS** in your pews are for recording attendance and for visitors to share their information so that we can share about God's work here. **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CLIPBOARDS** are in the narthex. **CHILDCARE** (ages 4 and under) is available in the Nursery in our Family Life Center (see an usher for directions). **ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES** are available from an usher.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of our most gracious God, from whom all life comes, and in memory of Kirby Sue Palmer Fisher (our loving Mom and Mia), who died on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Given by the J. Steven Fisher and Paula Fisher Philpot Families.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Carter Jenkins (Ryan and Suzanne Jenkins' son), Deborah Alexander, Nadine Potts, James Behrooz, Ron Church, Betty Carli, David Zirt (Delaine Fowler's friend), Ruth Purser (Kathy Sanborn's mother), Jeanette Whitley, Jean Wurster, Bill Garraty (Jennifer Hudson's father), Jessica Aiken (David and Nadine Potts' granddaughter)

Ed Muire and family on the death of his mother, Ellen Muire, on March 4.

Steve Fisher and family on the death of his mother, Sue Fisher, on March 4.

Susan and Joe Sember on the death of their uncle, Richard Tillman Fountain.

**CONTINUING CONCERNS:** Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Billy Canup (Cindy Coleman's father), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Betty Mohs, Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, John Smith

**BIRTHDAYS:** Alex Lee, Chad Hoskins, Debbie Collins, Bob Bruce, Caylee Snow, Rachel Culler, Steven Lescoe, Robin Jordan, Sloan Summitt, Teresa Rufty

### WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

**GROW:** It's spring break time for schools, so NO First Kids on March 11.

**GROW:** Lenten Prayer Breakfasts each Wednesday at 7:00 am during Lent. Join us for the best homemade breakfast in town. Schedule of speakers: March 11: Pastor Derrick Hawkins, Promise City Church. Cost: Adults \$7, Children/Youth \$3, and children under 4 are free. Sign up weekly on the friendship pads, or call/email Christine in the office.

**GROW:** New Men's Bible Study! Pastor Josh is leading a new weekly Tuesday morning Bible Study for men at 6:30 am, in the Open Horizon classroom. Josh says, "My earnest hope for this Bible Study is that it will be a place for men of different generations to find brothers in Christ who will encourage them in the life of faith."

**GROW:** Sisters in Christ invites all women to a 4-week Lenten Bible Study on *The Promise and Power of Easter*, by Christine Caine. Join them on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 9:45, in the Sisters in Christ classroom.

**GROW:** JOY will have a Catawba College 'Behind the Scenes Tour' of the Drama Department and Sports Complex on Friday, March 13. Meet at the Hendrick Little Theater on campus at 9:30 am. Lunch will be at DJ's. Call the church office to let them know you will attend.

**MUSIC:** The Bell Tower Ringers Festival Concert is set for Saturday, March 14, at 4:00, in Lewis Hall. Don't miss this mass-bell concert!

**WORSHIP:** Rev. Hannah's Service of Installation will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 3:00, in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend. A reception will follow the service.

**GROW: New Members Lunch** Sunday, March 29, 12:15-2:15, in Fellowship Hall. Have you been visiting First Presbyterian Church for a while? Do you consider First Pres your church home? Join Pastor Lara and other prospective new members for lunch to learn about the meaning of membership, what we believe, and how to grow and serve in faith together! Please RSVP to Pastor Lara or the church office to save your spot by March 25.

### WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

**STAFF:** Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money or gift cards, or run errands. Other things to watch out for: emails not ending with @firstpressalisbury.org or emails/texts about "a private matter." Please, do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

### WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

**SERVE:** Feed the Fish continues through Palm Sunday. Let's see who can grow the biggest fish this year!

**SERVE:** The Helene Recovery Team plans to take quarterly work trips to Western NC to assist with homes affected by the hurricane. The next trip is April 6-10. Lodging and meals are provided at the Montreat Conference Center. Call Bob Harris (704-202-5877) or Mike Drinkard (770-283-9046) with questions.

**SERVE:** Former Girl Scouts and/or Leaders, we are having a Reunion, March 24, 10:00-12:00, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a Brunch dish to share. RSVP to the Church Office or Carolyn Glasgow at 704-433-7871.

**For more details on events:** Visit our website at [www.firstpressalisbury.org](http://www.firstpressalisbury.org)

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### Our Staff

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**Antonio Cervantes Anguiano**  
Buildings & Grounds

### Sermon Notes

Use this space to jot down key ideas, questions, or insights.

- What verses or themes stood out to you?
- What is God saying to you today?
- How can God's Word today shape your daily life and prayers?

## Service of the Lord's Day

### Life and Death



**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 8, 2026

11:00 am | Sanctuary

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144

[www.firstpressalisbury.org](http://www.firstpressalisbury.org) | 704-636-1321

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