



**WELCOME TO  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
2415 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
[www.stjohnswns.com](http://www.stjohnswns.com)

**Traditional Service**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
*(Divine Service Setting Two)*  
**December 20, 2015 – 10:45 a.m.**

***St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven  
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.***

**WAITING FOR GOD'S SURPRISE!** As we open our Christmas gifts we usually experience a surprise! We don't know what's under the wrapping or hidden in the envelope. Everyday God's mercy and grace bring His surprising forgiveness to the heart of someone lost in darkness. As you prepare to celebrate God's gift of Jesus, may you be surprised anew at how great and marvelous God's grace really is for you.

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Heavenly Father, even as Mary was surprised by the angel's visit and his news that she would be the mother of Jesus, so prepare us to be surprised at your blessings as we receive them. Especially prepare us for Christ's surprise return, when we shall rejoice with Him forevermore. Like Mary, help me to believe and rejoice in your surprising promises this Christmas. In Jesus' name I come. Amen.

**Prelude**

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

Johannes Brahms

**Welcome**

*(Please Stand)*

**Processional Hymn #357 *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel***

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**C: Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.**

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**C: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.**

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. (*Psalm 98:1*)

**C: He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.** (*Psalm 98:3*)

P: "You will be with child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.

**C: He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."** (*Luke 1:31-32*)

P: Sing to the Lord a new song.

**C: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

P: Four candles are ignited into flame, as the glory of Jesus draws near.

**C: To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Call to Advent

## Et exultavit from *Magnificat*

J.S. Bach

Peyton Marion, soprano

Et exultavit spiritus meus  
in Deo salutary meo.

And my spirit rejoices  
in God, my Savior.

*(Four candles are lit.)*

## Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** A - men.

### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with You.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, we glorify You.

**C: We rejoice for You are our Savior.**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God.

**C: We praise You, Jesus, that You have chosen to bless us by coming into the world to fulfill God's will throughout Your life and even in Your death on the cross.**

P: May Your name be proclaimed among the nations that Your greatness would reach to the ends of the earth.

**C: In Your saving name we pray. Amen.**

*(Be Seated)*

**Old Testament Lesson**

**Micah 5: 2-5a**

*(The Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem. His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.)*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

*(Christ came into the world to do the will of God.)*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” <sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Alleluia and Verse**

One note introduction

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

*(Elizabeth speaks words of blessing on Mary and on the child she bears.)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

No introduction



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

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,**



P: Healing Lord, we pray for the sick, the injured and those who suffer in any Way, especially.... We ask you to give healing and peace according to Your gracious will. Comfort those who mourn the death of loved ones. Give them confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the death when Jesus comes in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Be with all who travel this Christmas week end and grant your holy angel's protection that they may reach their destinations safely. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Strengthen the faith of all who commune today, believing that in this meal the true body and blood of Jesus are given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Other petitions offered here.)*

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Benediction**

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.**

**Recessional Hymn #352 *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord***

**Dismissal**

**P:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

***Noël***

Louis-Claude Daquin



- Thursday, December 24 – 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship  
Thursday, December 24 – 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship with Holy Communion
- Friday, December 25 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship  
with Holy Communion
- Sunday, December 27– 10:45 a.m. One Service Only  
with Holy Communion/  
9:45am Bible Class &  
Sunday School
- Thursday, December 31 – 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship  
with Holy Communion

Did you pick up the Separate Announcement sheet **"Weekly News "** in the church entry?



# St. John's

## LUTHERAN

Church & School

***Our Sunday Worship*** - Morning services are at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and  
Adult Bible Class both begin at 9:45 a.m.

***A Great Place to Grow in Christ***

*As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a  
Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.  
All programs/grades have full-time care available.*

**Rev. Roger P. Schoolcraft,**  
**Intentional Interim Pastor**  
725-1651 x406 (office)  
336-655-5710 (cell)  
[pastor@stjohnsww.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsww.org)

**Mark Edmiston, Principal**  
**Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and Community Relations**  
**Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship**  
**Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Rob & Kathy Schwabe and John & Emily Schwabe in honor of Dorothy Zick.

**Ushers:** Bob Hoisington, Holly Richardson, Butch Roberts & John Williams