

Death comes from the devil.

He presents it as a solution for us to use.

He suggests we make it our salvation.

He tempts us to second-guess
and misinterpret
our Lord's commands.

He gets us to despise
and dismiss our Father's promises.

But God's Word brings truth.

His grace gives love.

His will works life.

He doesn't just say it,
He shows it and shares it.

"Did God Really Say ...?"



With *every syllable* of the Scriptures,
in *every cell* of the body,
through *every movement* of
the universe,

By *every moment* of human history,
and for *every member* of our race,
*even amid affliction and
under suffering,*

**Jesus Christ repeats,
"Let there be life!"**

Simon Peter
answered him,
"Lord, to whom
shall we go? You
have the words
of eternal life."
(John 6:68)

**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**
2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651
www.stjohnswn.com

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

January 19, 2020 – 10:45 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

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

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn: #367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father.

C: Who gave us life and knit us together in our mother's womb.

P: In the name of the Son.

C: Who was conceived in the womb of an unmarried teenage girl, as part of God's wondrous plan to rescue mankind from sin and death.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit.

C: Who created faith in John the Baptist, while he was still in Elizabeth's womb, and who makes us people of faith, so that we can speak God's life-giving Word to others.

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

C: Amen.

Introit: Psalm 139:1-6 (responsively)

P: O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

**C: ² You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.**

P: ³ You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

**C: ⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.**

P: ⁵ You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

**C: ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.**

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

First Lesson: Isaiah 44:1-5, 21-24

"Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant,
And Israel whom I have chosen.

² Thus says the LORD who made you
And formed you from the womb, *who* will help you:

'Fear not, O Jacob My servant;
And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

³ For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;

I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring;

⁴ They will spring up among the grass
Like willows by the watercourses.'

⁵ One will say, 'I *am* the LORD's';
Another will call *himself* by the name of Jacob;

Another will write *with* his hand, 'The LORD's,'
And name *himself* by the name of Israel.

²¹ "Remember these, O Jacob,
And Israel, for you *are* My servant;
I have formed you, you *are* My servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!
²² I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions,
And like a cloud, your sins.
Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."
²³ Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done *it!*
Shout, you lower parts of the earth;
Break forth into singing, you mountains,
O forest, and every tree in it!
For the Lord has redeemed Jacob,
And glorified Himself in Israel.

²⁴ Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,
And He who formed you from the womb:
"I *am* the Lord, who makes all *things*,
Who stretches out the heavens [\[a\]](#)all alone,
Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: Acts 17:24-25, 28

²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Organ Introduction

Cantor only sings Alleluia first time through, then congregation:



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: The Lord delivers us from the power of darkness,
And leads us into the kingdom of his Son.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:16-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Fifth Commandment with Luther's Explanation

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

(Be seated.)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Loves Me"

1. Jesus loves me this I know
For the bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong

Chorus
Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me
The bible tells me so

2. Jesus loves me loves me still
Tho' I'm very weak and ill
That I might from sin be freed
Bled and died upon the tree

Chorus

3. Jesus loves me He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide
He will wash away my sin
Let His little child come in

Chorus

Sermon: "Slaughter of the Innocents"

On the Preaching and Receiving of the Word: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Offering

Offertory Anthem "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me" based on the Gregorian chant *Adoro te devote* set by K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good;
And whatever I can be, give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, thine the victory.

Offertory #805 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

St. Paul wrote, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup". Ask yourself: Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Am I resolved, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to use the power of Christ which is offered in this Sacrament, to amend my sinful life? St. Paul also wrote, "He who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly". Do you believe that you receive the TRUE/REAL BODY AND BLOOD of Christ in, under and with the bread and wine for the full pardon of sins? (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.)

Children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pad in your pew.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface

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.

Prayers

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

P: Almighty Maker, You have pronounced humankind very good, created in Your own image and knit together even in the womb. Let us receive every life as Your gift and safeguard especially those threatened by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experiments. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Incarnate Savior, You have declared the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, taking our nature and making Yourself like us in every respect except without sin. Open our mouths to speak the sanctity of life with courage and show it with compassion. Open our ears to share the sorrows of those who grieve pregnancy loss or struggle under infertility. And open our hands to serve mothers with child and little ones awaiting adoption. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting God, You have decreed You have no pleasure in anyone's death and You desire all men to be saved. Bring us to contrition and repentance for dismissing Your Word and despising the least of these. Forgive and reform also those who persecute us and ridicule the unborn and the aged that we may embrace them as brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Good Shepherd, You have promised Your body and blood provide payment for the whole world's sin, once and for all. By Your merciful forgiveness work relief and healing, hope and comfort in consciences broken by the guilt of violence against life. Silence Satan's accusations with the assurance of Your atonement for every sin and every person. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Great Redeemer, You have instructed that You appoint authorities to approve good and avenge evil. Bless our land with leaders and laws that ensure safety, freedom, and fairness for persons great and small. Grant us insight, energy, and opportunity to take part in civic affairs for Your glory and the good of our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Please stand.)

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 “Lord of Life” (tune: Love Divine, All Love Excelling)

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| <p>1. Lord of life, whose hand has made us, Formed us each with tender care. You have crowned us with your image, Not intending such despair. Yet through sin the glory faded, Death and doom came in its place. But in spite of our condition, We’ve been rescued by Your grace!</p> <p>2. Lord of life, who rose in triumph, Conqu’ring death and giving hope, You have called us and equipped us,</p> | <p>In a sinful world to cope. Teaching us to love each other, To befriend and help in strife; To forgive and seek to comfort, And preserve the gift of life.</p> <p>3. Help us, Lord, to see as You do, Life is precious in each stage, From the unborn to the feeble, Life is precious in each age. Help us, Lord, to be Your witness And to show the world we care, Grant that people may not perish But, instead, your life may share.</p> |
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Postlude “Echo”

Gerhardus Scronx

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

Today’s Ushers: John Williams, Bob Sparks, Lisa Little, Arden Lackey

Worship Assistant: Early Service – Bill Thorpe, Rob Schwabe; Late Service – Mark Meier, Don Henderson

Lector: Early Service – Jackie Downey, Late Service – Beth Fordham-Meier

Altar Guild for January: Sarah Strahm, Renee Henderson, Megan Burtnett

Lock-ups for January: John Williams, Jeff Goad

Nursery is available in Preschool Room 106 during the 10:45 Worship Service for children ages 3 and under.

Crisis Control Item for January: Beef Stew – thank you for your December donations of 97 lbs.!

The Sermons are available on-line at <http://stjohnsww.com/weekly-sermons-2/>

St. John’s Prayer and Care Notes are distributed each Saturday. If you would like to receive this document and be listed on the email distribution, please send a request to:

- Dale Mierisch at wb9szl@triad.rr.com and include “St John’s Prayer and Care Notes Subscription” in the subject line of your email.
- You may also send your prayer requests to Dale at this address.

(Restrooms: Exit the left-side door on the pulpit side. Go straight thru the Fellowship Hall and the two doors leading to our school building. Restrooms are on your right in the school lobby)



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

Pastor Thomas Clocker, 301-732-9203, revclocker@gmail.com
Mark Edmiston, Principal
Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and Community Relations
Sonia Davidson, Director of Preschool
Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship

Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday,
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.