



**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651

www.stjohnswn.com

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2016 – 10:45 a.m.

Divine Service Setting One with Holy Communion

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

We are often tempted to think we deserve something better. If things don't go as planned, if crisis hits, or we are lacking happiness, we begin to question things. It happens in life, and it also happens as a temptation in our life of faith. We are not left alone in our wishing or our wondering about our Savior Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. His Word of truth reminds us of His works and His ways. In today's Lessons, Isaiah gives a message of future hope to the hopeless people; James reminds us of the Lord's attributes even in times of our suffering; and in a time of questioning for the imprisoned John the Baptist, Jesus brings a message of hope and confidence in his time of need. Though we are sinful and no person deserves something "better," by God's grace, we, too, receive that same reminder and message of hope of who God is and what He's done through Christ this Advent season and each day.

† Prayer Before Worship †

You came, Lord Jesus, as the Promised One when the time was fulfilled. And we know You will come again at Your time. We see that darkness overtakes the earth and causes suffering, pain, and fear. Yet in this darkness, a great light has risen up. Through Your Word and Sacraments, let the light be so clear that all people walk in it; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude

"Merton"

arr. Malcolm Archer

"Freu dich sehr"

arr. Egil Hovland

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn #345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

Confession and Absolution

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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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit *Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C: I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.

P: My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

C: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

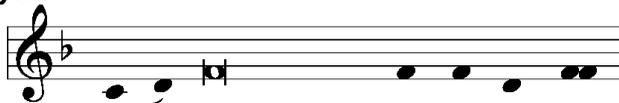
P: O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.

C: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

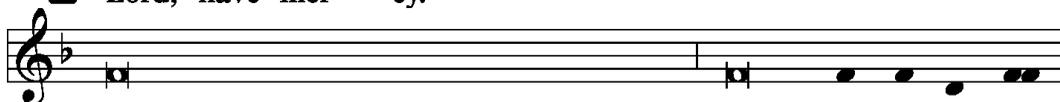
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



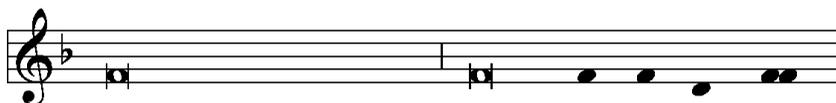
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



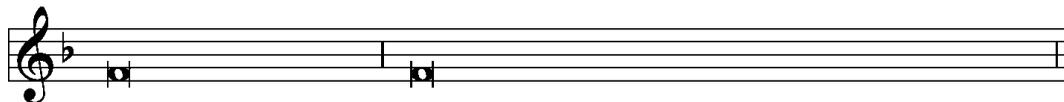
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



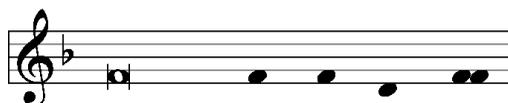
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



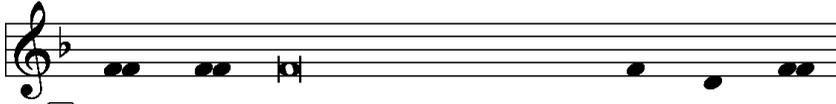
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise is Omitted During Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

(The glories to be seen at the coming of our Lord)

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

All: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Lesson

James 5:7-11

(Patience in suffering as we wait for the Lord)

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Interlude “Comfort Ye, My People” and “Every Valley Shall Be Exalted” from
“Messiah” George Friedrich Handel

Sung by Matthew Arnold, tenor

(Please Stand)

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

(In John the Baptist's doubt, Jesus affirms He is the Promised One by the evidence of His ministry.)

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be Seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Sermon

Pastor Charles Baldwin

(Please Stand)

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us now pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

Ever-present and comforting Lord, we pray for all those who have doubts and fears, suffering and sadness, grief and sorrow. As you affirmed to John the Baptist and others that You are the true God to come to His people, we now also lift up in prayer all who wait in their time of need. We pray for the sick, [*especially* . . .], who wait for healing and recovery.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, with Your healing Spirit.

P: We pray for the grieving who in their loss wait with heavy hearts.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope to those who feel hopeless.

P: We pray for all who experience transitions in jobs, relationships, and are in the middle of conflict or change, who wait for peace and security.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, and grant Your steadfast presence in times of change.

P: We pray for nations and people waiting for peace,

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, and bring justice to all.

P: We pray for those who sit in darkness, waiting to hear the Good News of forgiveness, hope, and life through Your Word,

C: Come to them in Your Word, and use us as witnesses and instruments through Your Spirit.

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

C: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

(Be Seated)

Offering

Offertory Anthem “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. John Carter

(Please Stand)

Offertory Hymn #781 “We Give Thee But Thine Own,” v. 1

TODAY WE WILL 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.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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.

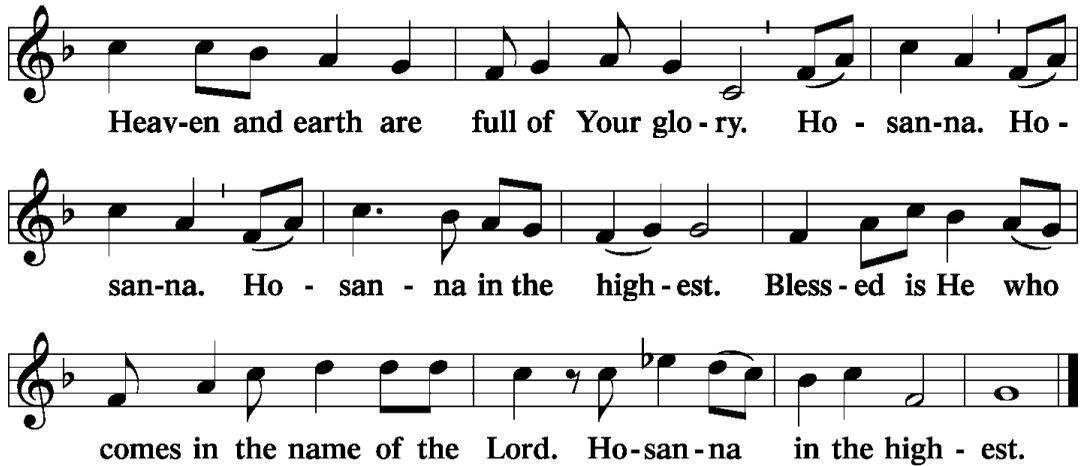
Proper Preface

P: ... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving
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.**

Words of our Lord

Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C 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.

(Be Seated)

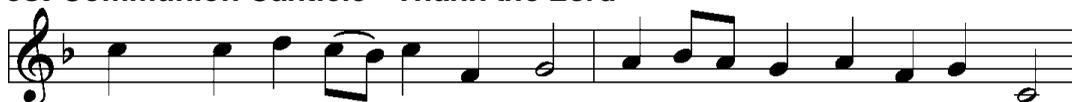
Distribution Hymns: #738 – “Lord of All Hopefulness”

#515 – “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#348 – “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

(Please Stand)

Post-Communion Canticle - *Thank the Lord*



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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 A - men.

Recessional Hymn #343 – “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude “Burgundian Noel”

Claude-Benigne Balbastre

Thank you to Pastor Charles Baldwin for leading our worship today.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Stef & Sonya Hamilton in memory of grandparents.

Today's Ushers: Bob Hoisington, Holly Wilson, Ryan Davidson, Stephanie Kiel

Worship Assistants: Dale Mierisch, Dave Lundmark

Altar Guild for December: Tina Kottowski, Anita Hoisington, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach

Lock-ups for December: Don Henderson, Glenn Rullman, Brad Honeycutt

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

Pew Pads: Please remember to sign the pew pads. Thank you.

The Sermons are available through the YouTube link at the church's web site. If you miss a Sunday, want to hear the sermon again, or want someone else to hear it, just go to www.stjohnsws.com and click on the YouTube link at the bottom of the home page.

Crisis Control Items for December: Flour, sugar and baking ingredients

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.



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
*Holy Communion is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays,
at 10:45 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays, and at both services
if there is a fifth Sunday in the month.*

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 8th grade.
All programs/grades have full-time care available.*

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship