



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

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

[www.stjohnswn.com](http://www.stjohnswn.com)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**December 18, 2016 – 10:45 a.m.**  
*Divine Service Setting One*

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

Millions of names exist in this world. Some are similar but have variations in different languages. Some have great historic meaning, while others are created new because they sound good to the name-giver. Yet with all the names that exist throughout the nations, there is only one name that saves, and that name is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. As we enter the last week of Advent, we hear the power of His name prophesied to Ahaz, affirmed in Romans, and spoken to Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, prior to His birth. And more than just a name, "Immanuel" is a sign that God is with His people. As we approach Christmas joy, we give thanks for the name above all names, through whom "the Lord saves."

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Immanuel, we praise You for being God with us since creation. We thank You for being God with us as the Word made flesh. We thank You for being God with us in all eternity. We ask You to be with us now in Your Word, Your Sacrament, and with the fellowship of this Body of Christ. In Your gracious saving name we pray, as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prelude**            **"Come, Thou Savior of the Gentiles"**

Robert Lind

### **Welcome & Sharing of the Peace**

*(Please Stand)*

### **Processional Hymn #331 "The Advent of Our King"**

### **Confession and Absolution**

|

**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** *Ps. 130:5-8; antiphon Isaiah 64:1*

**P:** Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

**C:** **I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;**

**P:** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

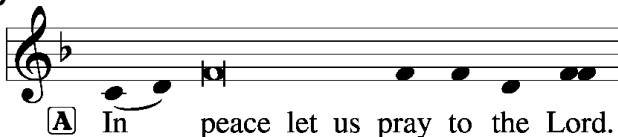
**C:** **O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

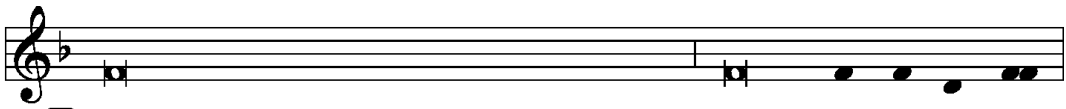
**P:** And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**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:** Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

## **Kyrie**





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



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



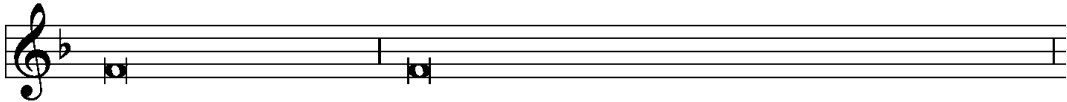
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



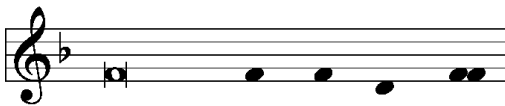
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



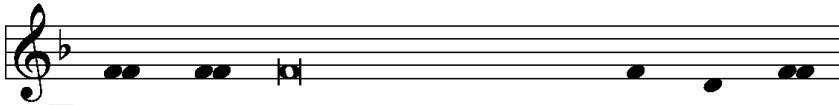
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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 7:10-17**

*(The sign of Immanuel)*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Solo**      **“Rejoice Greatly!”**      **from *Messiah***  
Teresa Bonavita, soprano

George Friedrich Handel

**Epistle Lesson**

**Romans 1:1-7**

*(Greeting in Jesus' name from Paul)*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L:      This is the Word of the Lord.

C:      **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Alleluia and Verse**



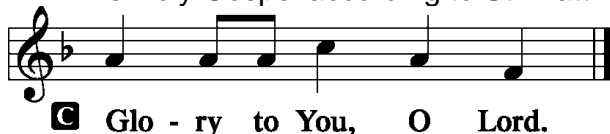
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?      You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life.      Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*(Joseph is told of the coming birth of Jesus and the name He shall be given.)*

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



Glo - ry to You,      O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

*(Be Seated)*

## Order of Holy Baptism

**McKenzie Olivia Gordon**

Daughter of Zachary & Amanda Gordon

Godparents: Mickey & Joyell Leonard

Congregation will speak the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer within the Baptismal service:

### 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,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. 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.**

#### **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day #361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**Sermon – "Welcome to My Heart"**

**Pastor John Fair, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Greensboro**

**Matthew 1:18-25**



*(Please Stand)*

### **Prayer of the Church**

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

Gracious Lord, we pray for the Church, that we who call Jesus Lord would, by our words and our deeds, boldly witness to His presence and power among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: be with us and hear us.**

P: We pray for the nations of this world and our nation, that peace and goodwill be had not just for a season but would prevail among us as a sign of Your abiding presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: be with us and give us peace.**

P: We lift up before You all who suffer in poverty and want. May deeds of mercy and compassion begun this season extend throughout all our days. Use us to meet the needs of our neighbors and all in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: be with us and give us peace.**

P: We pray for this congregation, that we may shine as a light of Your love to this community and beyond as a sign of Your presence. We pray for those who are lonely and for those who are ill, [*especially* . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer, and use us to make Your presence known to them. Be with us and give us peace.**

P: We pray for all who rejoice with family and friends in the week to come. Grant safety to all who travel. In the midst of many things, may the Good News of Jesus sent and born for us be at the heart of our celebrations. May the love in our homes be a sign of Your presence and care for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: be with us and hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

*(Be Seated)*

### **Offering**

**Offertory Anthem “There Shall a Star from Jacob Shine”**

arr. Joy Patterson

*(Please Stand)*

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

**Closing Collect**

**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 #338 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude “Noel”**

Louis-Claude Daquin

**Thank you** to Pastor John Fair for conducting our worship this morning.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Kathy & Rob Schwabe in honor of Dorothy Zick's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

**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.

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

**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](http://www.stjohnsws.com) and click on the YouTube link at the bottom of the home page.



***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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**