



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

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

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

**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUNDAY  
August 13, 2017 – 10:45 a.m.**

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

A theme throughout both the Old and New Testaments is the importance of passing the faith on to our children. We rejoice in the many years that God has used ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL to carry out this essential calling of the church. We rejoice also in the Sunday School and Education ministry at St. John's. However, Scripture assigns this task primarily to PARENTS. There is no substitute for parents modeling Christ-like behavior, teaching them God's Word and its importance, worshiping beside them, and Christian service – as the priorities in life. May God bless all our TEACHERS and make them a blessing to the children. May God grant our PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS wisdom and guidance in passing on the faith, and may the ministry of St. John's Church and School support those efforts. *Pastor Tom*

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Almighty and most merciful God, You have opened our hearts to hear Your accusing and acquitting Word, which saves us from our sin and defeats the forces of evil. Strengthen our faith so that we may live confidently under Your care and spread the news of Your grace in what we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Prelude “Fugue in C”

William Boyce

**Welcome & Sharing of the Peace** We take a moment to greet one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ (often with the words “God's peace be with you”). We enjoy this part of our worship; however, you are free to participate, or not, in any manner with which you are comfortable.

*(Please Remain Standing)*

**Processional Hymn #866 “Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend”,**  
Verses 1-3, 6, sung to the tune of “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: The Bible accounts we learn in Sunday School and at St. John's School teach us God's truths, reminding us that we, like the biblical characters we learn about, are sinners who serve a loving and forgiving God.

Your will and plan are that we be perfect, even as You, O Lord, are perfect. Therefore we confess our sins to You, Lord God, our Father, imploring You to show us Your mercy and grace.

**C: We have failed You, dear Lord, as the forgiven saints of old failed. We, too, need Your love and forgiveness.**

P: For times when we've been disobedient (Adam and Eve),

**C: For our insincere worship and sacrifice (Cain),**

- P: For lying to protect ourselves (Abram),
- C: For scheming to take what is not ours** (Jacob),
- P: For jealousy and conflict within our family (Joseph and his brothers),
- C: For failing to nurture our family's spiritual needs** (Eli and Samuel),
- P: For lust and improper intimacy with others (David),
- C: For whining and complaining about our duties for You** (Jeremiah),
- P: For taking care of ourselves first and Your house second (Ezra),
- C: For protecting our own interests and depending upon our own strength** (Samson),
- P: For arrogantly demanding that "our way" of practicing the faith is the only right way (the Pharisees),
- C: For being unwilling to give up things for Christ** (the rich young ruler),
- P: For denying Jesus and fleeing from Him to save ourselves (the disciples), and
- C: For laziness in life and faith** (the Thessalonians).
- P: Dear Lord, for these and all other sins, forgive us for Jesus' sake.
- C: We have learned from the lives of Your people in the Bible the truth about those You have chosen to love. They were not perfect. Nor are we perfect, but we share their joy in the forgiveness of sins You offer.**
- P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sin. 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.**

*(Be Seated)*

**Old Testament Lesson**      Parents, Teach Your Children – read responsively

- L: Take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.
- C: Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess;**
- L: That you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your children and your grandchildren, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.
- C: Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you – a land flowing with milk and honey.**
- L: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

**C: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.**

L: And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart;

**C: You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

L: You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

**C: You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

L: Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

**C: And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

*(Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:1-9; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)*

## **Epistle Lesson**

**Romans 12:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>In the same way, even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other. <sup>6</sup>God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking what God has revealed, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith. <sup>7</sup>If your gift is serving, then devote yourself to serving. If it is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. <sup>8</sup>If it is encouraging others, devote yourself to giving encouragement. If it is sharing, be generous. If it is leadership, lead enthusiastically. If it is helping people in need, help them cheerfully.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

## **Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 18:1-6, 10**

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup>He called a little child and had him stand among them. <sup>3</sup>Then he said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in

the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me.

<sup>6</sup> “These little ones believe in me. It would be best for the person who causes one of them to lose faith to be drowned in the sea with a large stone hung around his neck.

<sup>10</sup> “Be careful not to despise these little ones. I can guarantee that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father, who is in heaven.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Be Seated)*

**Hymn of the Day #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

**Sermon “How Can We Bless the Children?”**

## **Offering**

Please take this time to sign the Pew Pads in your row and pass them down. We thank God for our visitors and guests. Please share your e-mail with us so that you can receive a weekly note of activities/announcements. Thank you for worshipping with us!

*(Please Stand)*

**Offertory Hymn #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. 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.**

**Closing Prayer**

P: Thank You for forgiveness. Enable us to

**C: Walk with You daily** (Enoch),

P: Worship You even unto our dying breath (Jacob),

**C: Speak to You face-to-face as one speaks with a friend** (Moses),

P: Seek Your own heart and will (David),

**C: Believe that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world"** (Martha),

P: Possess confidence that "Baptism now saves us" (Peter),

**C: Cling to the promise that You are "able to keep us from falling and to present us before Your glorious presence without fault and with great joy"** (Jude),

P: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Paul),

**C: Trust fully in Your promise to us: "your sins are forgiven"** (the woman who washed Jesus' feet with perfume),

P: Know that “not anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (the Romans),

**C: Trust Jesus’ words that “I am with you always, to the very end of the age”**  
(Matthew),

P: Know that we also are disciples “whom Jesus loves” (John),

**C: Be prepared to depart in peace, “for our eyes have seen Your salvation”**  
(Simeon). **Amen.**

### **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 “Faith of Our Fathers”**

1 Faith of our fathers! living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

2 Faith of our fathers! we will strive  
to win all nations unto thee,  
and through the truth that comes from God,  
the world shall then be truly free:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

3 Faith of our fathers! we will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
and preach thee, too, as love knows how,  
by kindly words and virtuous life:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

### **Postlude “Trumpet Voluntary”**

John Bennett

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

**Worship Assistants:** Steve Anderson, Dale Mierisch

**Altar Guild for August:** Stephanie Guelzow, Sarah Strahm

**Lock-ups for August:** Bob Hoisington, Glenn Rullman

**The altar flowers today** are given to the Glory of God by Beth and Mark Meier in honor of John Fordham in belated celebration of his birthday.

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

**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](mailto: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 prayer requests to Dale at this same address.

**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: 8:00 – 3:30, Monday through Thursday