



# Second Sunday *of* Advent

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

2415 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
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[www.stjohnswn.com](http://www.stjohnswn.com)

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2017 – 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.***

## Service for the Commemoration of Faithful Departed

Today we remember, with thanksgiving to God, loved ones who have gone before us. We thank God for the blessing that they were. We thank God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Christmas is around the corner. Someone said of Christmas, "Jesus came from heaven to earth so that we may go from earth to heaven!" Thank God for the indescribable gift of eternal life in and through our Savior!

(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)

**Prelude** "As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"

arr. David Lasky

**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)*

*If at any point you need to or prefer to sit, please feel free to do so*

(Please Rise)

**Processional Hymn: #672 "Jerusalem the Golden"**

### Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

**Call to Worship: "Forever With Christ" John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:4-5; 22:5 12, 20b**

L: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

**C: In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you.**

L: I am going there to prepare a place for you.

**C: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.**

L: There will be no more death.

**C: No mourning or crying or pain,**

L: For the old order of things has passed away.

**C: I am making everything new!**

L: There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun.

**C: For the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign for ever and ever.**

L: Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Confession** (In Unison)

**O, Almighty God, we do confess that we are not worthy to live forever with You in the Holy Joy that is heaven. We do not deserve Your eternal love and blessing – not by who we are, or by what we have done. But, by faith, we rejoice in Your forgiveness and grace in Jesus. We claim the gift of eternal life, purchased for us through His precious blood. For the sake of Your Perfect and Beloved Son – grant us, everlasting life in heaven.**

**Forgiveness of Sins** (Pastor)

Jesus, our Savior, has opened the door of heaven – for us. He has removed the sin that barred our way. He has defeated death and turned it into victory. Rejoice – in and with Jesus – God has freely given you – the gift of eternal life. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

**First Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7, 10-14**

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup>Then I, John,<sup>[a]</sup> saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup>And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me,<sup>[b]</sup> “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

<sup>6</sup>And He said to me, “It is done!<sup>[c]</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. <sup>7</sup>He who overcomes shall inherit all things,<sup>[d]</sup> and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

<sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy<sup>[a]</sup> Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the

children of Israel: <sup>13</sup> three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

<sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names <sup>[b]</sup> of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn of Response: #748 “I Am But A Stranger Here”**

**Second Lesson: Revelation 21:18, 21-27**

<sup>18</sup> The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. . <sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

<sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, <sup>[a]</sup> for the glory <sup>[b]</sup> of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved <sup>[c]</sup> shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. <sup>[d]</sup> <sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). <sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. <sup>[e]</sup> <sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes <sup>[f]</sup> an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Holy Gospel: John 14:1-6**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions; <sup>[a]</sup> if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Apostles' Creed**

**C 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

*(Be Seated)*

## **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day: #673 “Jerusalem My Happy Home”**

**Sermon: “A Heavenly Tour”**

**Offer Unto the Lord!** The Bible gives these guidelines on our financial giving:

- 1) *“First Fruits”*: i.e. Set aside a portion for God **FIRST**. He gets the best, not the leftovers.
- 2) *“Portion/Percentage giving”*: Give to God a percentage of our gross income; the Old Testament *“tithes”* was 10%; certainly *“this side”* of the cross we should be just as motivated, or more so, than the Old Testament believers!
- 3) *“God’s Blessings”*: God promises if we are faithful in our giving, He will pour out blessing/abundance to us overflowing!

## 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 worshiping with us!

**Offertory Anthem “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”** Harry Rowe Shelley

*(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

**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.

## Prayer of the Church

P: Lord in Your Mercy

**C: Hear our prayer**

**The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed** (See insert)

## 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

### Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

*(Be Seated)*

**Distribution Hymns: #676 "Behold A Host Arrayed in White"**  
**#678 "We Sing for All the Unsung Saints"**

*(Please Stand)*

### Post-Communion Collect

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: 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: #680 “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”**

**Postlude “Noel”**

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

**Advent and Christmas Services**

**Wednesday Advent Worship at 7:00pm**

- December, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – dinner at 5:30pm

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**

- Regular Morning Service at 8:30am and 10:45am with Sunday School at 9:45am
- “Christmas Eve Worship” – at 5:00pm and 7:00pm (no communion)

**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25**

- 10:00am with Holy Communion

**New Year’s Eve, Sunday, December 31**

- Regular Morning Service at 8:30am and 10:45am with Sunday School at 9:45am
- “New Year’s Eve Worship” with Holy Communion at 7:00pm

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Tim & Laura Nelson.

**Today's Ushers:** Holly Wilson, Ryan Davidson, Butch Roberts, and Stephanie Kiel

**Worship Assistant:** Early Service – Mark Edmiston, Bob Burke; Late Service – Rob Schwabe, Mark Meier

**Lector:** Early Service – Jenelle Lanham, Late Service – Beth Meier

**Altar Guild for December:** Tina Kottowski, Claudia Essbach, Jackie Downey, and Mary Rochester

**Lock-ups for December:** John Williams and Don Adamick

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

**Crisis Control Item for December:** Sugar/Flour/Baking Items. The collection basket is in the Narthex.

**The Sermons** are available on-line at <http://stjohnsws.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 your prayer requests to Dale at this address.



***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.*

***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.*

**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.