



Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

www.stjohnswn.com

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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.**

“Blessed the Years” Sunday Observance

Thoughts before worship: the purpose of this service is to help us affirm the unique worth of older persons, to recognize and celebrate each year added to our lives as a gift from God, and to recognize the passing of time and its significance for the Christian community. This gift is to be used wisely and faithfully in service to God and His people

(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 “Veni Emmanuel”

Wilbur Held

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: #343 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Opening Litany:

P: O God, help us, Your children, to recall all the ways and times you have proved to be our loving parent.

C: For it is You, Lord, Who provided us with those who cared for us in infancy, affording shelter, protection, nourishment, and care.

P: O God, help us. Your children, to recall the joys of our childhood:

C: For it is You, Lord, Who has surprised us with the color of sunsets, the brightness of stars, the fragrance of flowers, and the songs of the birds, the laughter of friends, and the soft voices of those who spoke our evening prayers with us.

- P: O God, help us, Your children, to recall Your protecting hand attending us as the years have passed;
- C: **For it is You, Lord, Who brought healing to our pains, recover from illnesses, renewed spirit after disappointments, and warded off dangers and disease that threatened our well-being.**
- P: O God, help us, Your children, to recall the times You have stood close by when sorrows crowded in on us;
- C: **For it is You, Lord, Who gave Your Son for us, experiencing deep pain and loss in His cross and nails; and Who knows and feels our every loss, assuring us that You will never leave us nor forsake us in our heavy heartedness.**
- P: O God, help us, Your children, to see the gift that is ours in this family we call church;
- C: **It is You, Lord, Who looked beyond what we have been and are, Who in the waters of Baptism marked us as Your very own, members of Your family, to be loving sisters and brothers of one another.**
- P: O God, we are Your children.
- C: **Help us as we grow older, to grow wiser, to grow in our thankfulness, in our sense of responsibility, that we may use the gifts of grace, experience, skill, time, and all our resources for service to You and our neighbor, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- P: God of grace, Your care for us knows no bounds. Hear our prayer for all with special joys and needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

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: Psalm 71

71 In You, O Lord, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.
2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me.
3 Be my strong refuge,
To which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You *are* my rock and my fortress.
4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.
5 For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;
You *are* my trust from my youth.
6 By You I have been upheld from birth;
You are He who took me out of my mother's womb.
My praise *shall be* continually of You.
7 I have become as a wonder to many,
But You *are* my strong refuge.
8 Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise
And with Your glory all the day.
9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.
10 For my enemies speak against me;
And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together,
11 Saying, "God has forsaken him;
Pursue and take him, for *there is* none to deliver *him*."
12 O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
13 Let them be confounded *and* consumed
Who are adversaries of my life;
Let them be covered *with* reproach and dishonor
Who seek my hurt.
14 But I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And Your salvation all the day,
For I do not know *their* limits.
16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth;
And to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works.

¹⁸ Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,
Your power to everyone *who* is to come.

¹⁹ Also Your righteousness, O God, *is* very high,
You who have done great things;
O God, who *is* like You?

²⁰ *You*, who have shown me great and severe troubles,
Shall revive me again,
And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

²¹ You shall increase my greatness,
And comfort me on every side.

²² Also with the lute I will praise You—
And Your faithfulness, O my God!
To You I will sing with the harp,
O Holy One of Israel.

²³ My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,
And my soul, which You have redeemed.

²⁴ My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long;
For they are confounded,
For they are brought to shame
Who seek my hurt.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**C 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: #752 "Be Still, My Soul"

Sermon: "Faithful to the Finish"

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 worshipping with us!

Offertory Anthem "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers!"

Swedish arr. K. Lee Scott

(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 (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: #337 "The Night Will Soon Be Ending"
#351 "Creator of the Stars of Night"
#348 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"**

(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: #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Postlude “Haf Trones Lampa Fardig”

arr. Paul Manz

Advent and Christmas Services

Wednesday Advent Worship at 7:00pm

- December, 20th – 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 memory of Dorothy Zick by Kathy, Rob, John, & Emily Schwabe.

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

Worship Assistant: Early Service – Rich Essbach, Tom Baldwin; Late Service – Dale Mierisch, Larry Bowman

Lector: Early Service – Claudia Essbach, Late Service – Stephanie Guelzow

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 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 8th 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.