



**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**
2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651
www.stjohnsws.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018 – 10:45 a.m.

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

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)*

(Please Rise)

Processional Hymn: #376 "Once in Royal David's City"

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences. Holy and gracious God,

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You, O Lord, for all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. Your name I have not honored and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me amend my sinful life. Amen.

P: God be merciful and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord † be with you.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:11-12

¹¹ Indeed the Lord has proclaimed To the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him.’” ¹² And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Response: #346 “When All the World was Cursed”

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of

David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed ^[a]wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a ^[b]manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: #338 "Come Though Long Expected Jesus"

Sermon: "No Room For Jesus"

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 "tith" 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 "Lo, How a Rose 'Ere Blooming"

Michael Praetorius with a
dash of Beethoven

(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.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

(Be Seated)

**Distribution Hymns: #334 "O Lord How Shall I Meet You"
#384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
#393 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

(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 #380 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Postlude "Noel"

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pastor Tom & Gwen Clocker in memory of all our Grandparents. Gwen's parents and brother, Gwen's Uncle Bob, and Pastor Tom's mom, and especially, James Colbert, one of our add-on kids.

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

Worship Assistant: Early Service – Rich Essbach, Mark Edmiston; Late Service – Mark Meier, Don Henderson

Lector: Early Service – Claudia Essbach, Late Service – Allen Hall

Altar Guild for December: Tina Kottlowski, Jackie Downey, Mary Rochester

Lock-ups for December: John Williams, Don Adamick

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

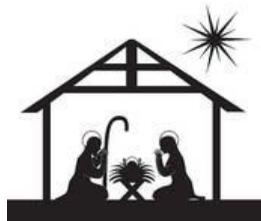
Crisis Control Item for December: Sugar, Flour, Baking items. The collection basket is in the Narthex. Thank you for your November contributions – 26lbs of cooking oil were collected!

The Sermons are available on-line at <http://stjohnswws.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.

(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)



Christmas and New Year's Services

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th – 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25th – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31st – 7:00 p.m.



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.