



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

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

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2018 – 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.**

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

## **Prelude “A Garland of Carols”**

### ***Welcome***

We are delighted to have you with us as we celebrate God’s love for us in Jesus! If you have any questions or needs please feel free to ask an usher, Pastor Tom, or anyone here at St. John’s.

### ***As We Worship***

**Prepare** for worship in stillness and prayer.

**Enjoy** worship by lifting your voice and heart to God.

**Close** worship by enjoying the fellowship of one another.

**After** worship, the service begins! Go out and serve the Lord in all areas of life!

*“I urge you, in view of God’s mercy to you, present yourselves as living sacrifices to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.” — Romans 12:1*

*Please silence all devices. If at any point you need to or prefer to sit, please feel free to do so.*

## **Pre-Service Prayer**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.

## **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 Stand)*

**Processional Hymn #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**Children’s Choir Anthem “Mary’s Boy Child” (5:30pm)** Caribbean Spiritual

**Invocation Pastor Tom**

## Responsive Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

L: You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy;

**C: they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

L: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,  
You have broken as on the day of Midian.

**C: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.**

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**C: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

**C: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

## First Lesson: Psalm 62:1-8 (Waiting Silently for God)

Truly my soul silently *waits* for God; From Him *comes* my salvation.

<sup>2</sup> He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *He is* my <sup>[a]</sup>defense;

I shall not be greatly moved.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.

<sup>4</sup> They only consult to cast *him* down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly.

<sup>5</sup> My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my <sup>[c]</sup>expectation *is* from Him.

<sup>6</sup> He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *He is* my defense; I shall not be <sup>[d]</sup>moved.

<sup>7</sup> In God *is* my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength,  
*And* my refuge, *is* in God.

<sup>8</sup> Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him;  
God *is* a refuge for us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

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

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.<sup>[a]</sup> And he called His name JESUS. and he in God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Children's Choir (5:30pm) "Nowell" from The Nativity According to St. Luke**

Randall Thompson

**Choir Anthem (8:00pm) "Shepherd's Carol"**

William Billings

**Hymn of Response #364 "Away in the Manger" (8:00pm)**

*(Please Stand)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

## **Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

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

<sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,<sup>[a]</sup> who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she

brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, [\[b\]](#) an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”  
<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” [\[c\]](#)  
<sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely [\[d\]](#) known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

### Chalcedonian Creed

**We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach people to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one**

**Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.**

*(Be Seated)*

**Hymn of the Day #361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**Sermon “Pondering with Mary”**

### **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 (8:00 pm) “The Sussex Carol – On Christmas Night”**

arranged by Arthur Frackenpohl

**Candles are lit; John 1:1-14 is read**

*(Please Stand)*

**Hymn #363 – “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

**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.**

*(Candles are extinguished)*

### **Blessing**

P: Out of darkness we have light,

**C: Which made the angels sing this night:**

P: “Glory to God and peace to men

**C: Now and forevermore. Amen.”**

## **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: Amen.**

**Hymn #387 "Joy to the World"**

**Postlude "In dulci jubilo"**

**J.S. Bach**

## **Children's Choir**

Holly Chandler

Joyce Chen

Keira Dively

Jade Gaither

Camryn Garland

Lily Garland

Aurora Harkins

Jonas Harkins

Landon Mackie

Elora Pruitt

Lily Shannon

Mackenzie White

**Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by:**

### **To the Glory of God:**

Dale and Alice Mierisch

Steve Covington

Arden and Glenda Lackey

Don and Clare Adamick

Karin Lennon

Mary Rochester

### **In memory of:**

Richard Blizzard by Jeanne Blizzard

Bob Cleary by Dot Cleary

Dewey and Debbie Davidson by Jane Davidson

Annette Loeffler by Teresa Pyrtle

Dave Lundmark by Jan Lundmark

Loren Happel by Joan Happel

Becky Baker by Martha Tegeler

You are welcome to take your flowers home to enjoy after the 10:00 service on Christmas Day.

Special thanks to Fran Johnson for sharing her nativity scene with us. It was made by Fran and Jim several years ago. It is on the table in the narthex.

**Christmas Day** worship service will be at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

**New Year's Eve** worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.



# St. John's

## LUTHERAN

Church & School

**Officiant:** Rev. Tom Clocker

**Organist:** Frances Burmeister

**Worship Assistant:** Steve Anderson (5:30pm), Mark Meier (8:00pm)

**Lector:** Claudia Essbach (5:30pm), Beth Fordham-Meier (8:00pm)

**Altar Guild:** Tina Kottlowski, Mary Rochester, Jackie Downey,

**Lock-ups:** John Williams, Don Adamick