



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

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
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www.stjohnswn.com

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS DAY

Festival Service with Holy Communion

December 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

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

† Prayer Before Worship †

Blessed Lord, long ago You spoke through the voices of men to proclaim Your promise. Now You have spoken through Your Son, the Word made flesh. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the living voice that bestows upon us the fullness of Your promises, once for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives in unity with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prelude “Noel”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

Processional Hymn #367 “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be seated.)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation

And ^aincreased its joy;

They rejoice before You

According to the joy of harvest,

As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴For You have broken the yoke of his burden

And the staff of his shoulder,

The rod of his oppressor,

As in the day of Midian.

⁵For every warrior's ^bsandal from the noisy battle,

And garments rolled in blood,

Will be used for burning *and* fuel ^cof fire.

⁶For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of *His* government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, having been justified by faith, ^[a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces ^[b]perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, ^[c]character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶For when we were still without strength, ^[d]in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Response: #368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Please stand)

Holy Gospel

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Reading of Luke 2:8-14

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**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)

Hymn "From Heaven Came the Angels Bright"

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| 1 From heaven came the angels
bright
To shepherds watching in the night.
A newborn royal child, they said,
Lies yonder in a manger bed. | 2 To Bethlehem, King David's town,
As Micah saw, comes great renown;
Your Lord Christ is incarnate there
To save you all from sin and care. |
|---|--|

3 Rejoice therefor that through his Son
Your God with you is now at one.
He took on human carnate there
To save you all from sin and care.

4 God came to share himself with you;
Your sin and death he overthrew,
The foe may send his fiery dart,
Your friend, God's Son, will shield
your heart.

5 He never will abandon you.
Trust King Immanuel the True.
Yield not to any evil might.
Walk in the Christ child's saving
light.

6 Then in the end you will prevail;
God's friends and brothers cannot
fail.
In praise to God then raise your
voice,
Prepare forever to rejoice.

Sermon: "Angels Sing of Peace"

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory Anthem "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" arranged by T. Frederick H.
Candlyn

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.

† Service of the Sacrament †

(Please stand)

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.**

Words of our Lord

(Please Seated)

**Distribution Hymns: #358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" vs. 1-5 (break)
#358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" vs. 8-15**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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 #380 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Postlude "Noel"

Louis-Claude Daquin

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 Blizard by Jeanne Blizard
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.

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

Officiant: Rev. Tom Clocker

Organist: Frances Burmeister

Worship Assistant: Mark Meier & Larry Bowman

Lector: Beth Fordham-Meier

Altar Guild: Tina Kottowski, Mary Rochester, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach

Lock-ups: John Williams, Don Adamick