



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

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

www.stjohnswns.com

December 30, 2017 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

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

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Opening Sentences

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

C: Amen.

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place

C: **in all generations.**

P: So teach us to number our days

C: **that we may get a heart of wisdom**

P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

C: **and establish the work of our hands upon us;**

All: **yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Confession and Absolution

C: **Eternal Father, Thou art good beyond all thought, But I am vile, wretched, miserable, blind; My lips are ready to confess, but my heart is slow to feel, and my ways reluctant to amend. I bring my soul to thee; break it, wound it, bend it, mould it. Unmask to me sin's deformity, that I may hate it, abhor it, flee from it. My faculties have been a weapon of revolt against thee; as a rebel I have misused my strength, and served the foul adversary of thy kingdom.**

I have seen the purity and beauty of thy perfect law, the happiness of those in whose heart it reigns, the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls, yet I daily violate and condemn its precepts. Thy loving Spirit strives within me, brings me Scripture warnings, yet I choose devices and desires to my own hurt, impiously resent, grieve, and provoke Him to abandon me.

All these sins I mourn, lament, and for them cry pardon. Work in me more profound and abiding repentance; Give me the fullness of a godly grief that trembles and fears, yet ever trusts and loves, which is ever powerful, and ever confident; Grant that through the tears of repentance I may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross.

(Silence for reflection)

P: God, our heavenly Father, hears the prayers of His children and answers them. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered because of Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for us that we might have new life in Him. The separation between God and us has been bridged by God's love in the sacrifice of His Son. To those who believe His word of promise, He gives the privilege to be the people of God. Praise Him for His gift of love to us!

Introit *Psalm 98:1-3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

C: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

P: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 33:24-27

²⁴ And of Asher he said:

“Asher *is* most blessed of sons;
Let him be favored by his brothers,
And let him dip his foot in oil.

²⁵ Your sandals *shall be* iron and bronze;

As your days, so shall your strength be.

²⁶ “*There is* no one like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to help you,
And in His excellency on the clouds.

²⁷ **The eternal God *is* your refuge,
And underneath *are* the everlasting arms;**
He will thrust out the enemy from before you,
And will say, ‘Destroy!’

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Psalm 90:12-14

All: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: “Noel Nouvelet”

traditional French arranged by Richard Zgodava

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel Luke 2:22-35

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”

³³ [\[a\]](#) And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

Hymn of the Day “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

(Next page)

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

Words by
Elisha Albright Hoffman

Music by
Anthony J. Showalter

$\text{♩} = 108$ VERSE

$A\flat$ $D\flat$ $A\flat$

1. What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, Lean - ing on the ev - er -
2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, Lean - ing on the ev - er -
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Lean - ing on the ev - er -

4 $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$ $A\flat/E\flat$

-last - ing arms; What a bless - ed-ness, what a peace is mine, Lean - ing on the ev - er -
-last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, Lean - ing on the ev - er -
-last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, Lean - ing on the ev - er -

CHORUS

8 $E\flat^7$ $A\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$

-last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing,
-last - ing arms. Safe and se-cure from
-last - ing arms.
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

12 A^b E^b A^b D^b

all a - larms; Lean - ing, lean - ing,

Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

15 A^b/E^b E^b7 A^b

Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Sermon “The Everlasting Arms of God”

(Please stand.)

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.)

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 “Mary Had a Baby” Spiritual, arranged by William L. Dawson
Ranara Rahimova, soprano

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.

† 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

(Be seated.)

**Distribution Hymns: #733 “O God our Help in Ages Past”
 #896 “Now Great the Swiftly Changing Year”**

(Please stand.)

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray. We thank You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept us this year; and we pray that You would forgive us all our sins where we have done wrong, and graciously keep us in this new year. For into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things. Let Your holy angel be with us, that the evil foe may have no power over us.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: So teach us to number our days

C: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

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 #895 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude “Noel”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Poinsettias may be picked up at any time.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

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

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

Lector: Early Service – Kris Gartley, 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 January: Beef Stew

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.

(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)



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
*Holy Communion is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays,
at 10:45 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays, and at both services
if there is a fifth Sunday in the month.
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class both begin at 9:45 a.m.*

This schedule will resume on January 8. Tomorrow's worship service is at 10:30 a.m.
with Holy Communion.

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship