



You “have been borne by me from before
your birth, carried from the womb; even to
your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will
carry you.

I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save.” (Isaiah 46:3b-4)

FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME ...

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

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

www.stjohnswn.com

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

January 20, 2019 – 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.**

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.

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: #791 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams for the coronation of Elizabeth II

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, on your sons and your daughters, your young men and old, even on My male servants and My female servants. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

C: Merciful Father and Maker of all, we confess that from youth until our last breath every intention of our hearts is evil. In sinfulness we were conceived,

and apart from You we can do no good thing. We have turned aside from Your Word and Your grace to worship our own desires instead. We have not respected life as Your gift or treated our neighbors as treasures. We deserve the death we have brought upon ourselves. In Your steadfast compassion, forgive our iniquity. Remember us as those for whom Your dear Son Jesus atoned. Bring forth in us repentance and trust that Your humble creatures may be saved, according to the favor of Your name. Amen.

P: I the Lord do not change, says our God. Therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. He has given Himself in His Son Jesus, Who became incarnate and was crucified, that in His resurrection all humankind would be redeemed. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit: Psalm 90:1-4, 12-17

P: Lord, You have been our [la](#)dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You [lb](#)had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

P: You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men."

C: For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night.

P: So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

C: Return, O Lord! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

P: Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

C: Make us glad according to the days *in which* You have afflicted us, The years *in which* we have seen evil.

P: Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.

C: And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

C: 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.

Collect

P: Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation, 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)

First Lesson: Isaiah 46:3-4, 8-10

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from **before your birth**, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: James 1:17-27

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the

Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel Matthew 2:13-18

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

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)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: #863 "Our Father, by Whose Name"

Sermon: "God Loves Life"

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 *“tithe”* 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 “And the Child grew in Wisdom” Randall Thompson
from “The Nativity According to St. Luke”

(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

Prayers

- P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P:** For all the children of God, born into His own household by baptismal grace to share in His Son’s inheritance, that we may rejoice to speak His truth and delight to show His love, until every human being has life and has it to the full, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For women with child and the little ones they carry, for newborns and infants, that our Maker and Father lends us His courage, to protect them from every danger, and His compassion, to provide for all their needs, while gathering them into His family, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For those who grieve pregnancy loss or struggle under infertility, that our Savior comforts them with the peace of His forgiving care and the promise of resurrection and reward, and that the body of Christ shares their sorrows and their joys, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For children awaiting adoption, and for little ones held in laboratories or scheduled for abortion, that Almighty God spares their lives, and that the Holy Spirit moves us to open our ears and our mouths, our hearts and hands and homes, to embrace them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For parents and other authorities, that in our homes and communities they gently and relentlessly safeguard the sacredness with which our Creator has invested every human life, and that they uphold especially the least of these even as He enfolds each of us in His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the aged and the infirm (especially...), for the abandoned and the bereaved (especially...), and for those beset with the guilt of taking part in ending life, that our Lord delivers them out of their sufferings and heals them with forgiveness for their sins and everlasting restoration for their bodies, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those celebrating the blessings of abundant life, including birthdays (especially...) and anniversaries (especially...), we give thanks and praise with them to God Who has affirmed how precious they are by granting length of days and rich mercies, and that together we commit ourselves evermore into His goodness, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 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.

Service of the Sacrament

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: #588 "Jesus Loves Me"
#605 "Father Welcomes"
#740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

(Please Stand)

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: #900 "Jesus Name of Wondrous Love"

Postlude "Trumpet Tune"

William Boyce

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

Today's Ushers: John Williams, Bob Sparks, Lisa Little, Arden Lackey

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

Lector: Early Service – Claudia Essbach, Late Service – Joel Becker

Altar Guild for January: Stephanie Guelzow, Michaela Montgomery

Lock-ups for January: 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 January: Beef Stew

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