



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

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

[www.stjohnswn.com](http://www.stjohnswn.com)

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**July 16, 2017 – 10:45 a.m.**

*Divine Service Setting Five*

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

Fear always leads us back into bondage to our ego-based programs for success in this world. This is “the flesh” of which Paul speaks in today’s Epistle. But we don’t owe that fleshly program anything. Following the path of self-preservation or self-advancement at the expense of others leads to death. Rather, by faith in Jesus we are led by the Spirit of God, having been adopted as sons and daughters in Holy Baptism. This Spirit of adoption grants full sonship and leads us to join Jesus in boldly addressing God as our “Abba! Father!”

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Abba! Father! You have given us the Spirit of adoption in the waters of our Baptism. Grant that we may come to know and believe Your Word that makes us what You always intended us to be: Your own beloved sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Call to Worship**    **“Bless Us This Day”**

Julie Knowles

**Prelude**    **“Trumpet Tune in C”**

Henry Purcell

**Welcome & 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)*

**Processional Hymn**    **#790**    **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C:** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C:** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 Lesson**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

*(God's Word accomplishes His purposes.)*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Lesson

**Romans 8:12-17**

*(The Spirit of adoption as sons)*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.  
<sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death  
the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of  
God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have  
received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit  
himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then  
heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order  
that we may also be glorified with him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

## Holy Gospel

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*(The Word of the Kingdom as seed being sown)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great  
crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole  
crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower  
went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came  
and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much  
soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the  
sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other  
seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on  
good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

<sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear.”

...<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

*(Be Seated)*

**Hymn of the Day #577 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”**

**Sermon “Facing the Struggles of Life”**

## **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!

## **Choral Voluntary “O Lord of Love”**

Johannes Brahms

*(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

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

## **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.**

## **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 #894 “For the Fruits of His Creation”**

**We thank Pastor William Seaman** for his message this morning.

**Thanks to Joel Becker** for the music, as Frances recovers from her broken wrist, and to Jennifer Anderson, Soprano.

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Larry and Kay Bowman.

**Today’s Ushers:** Larry Bowman, Lisa Little, Bob Sparks, John Williams

**Worship Assistant:** Mark Meier

**Altar Guild for July:** Claudia Essbach, Anita Hoisington

**Lock-ups for July:** Steve Anderson, Don Henderson

**Pew Pads:** Please remember to sign the pew pads. Thank you.

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

**Crisis Control Item for July:** Peanut butter. The collection basket for these items is in the Narthex.

**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](mailto: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.



# St. John's LUTHERAN

Church & School

***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 9:30 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**