



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

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

www.stjohnswn.com

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 2, 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.**

We live in a world where leadership is lifted up, yet we forget that leaders first learn to follow. Following is never easy, especially when the going gets tough. It can be hard enough to follow people we know, respect, and trust. It can be even harder to follow an unseen God who speaks to us through His eternal Word, strengthens us through bread and wine, and leads and guides us by His Spirit. Yet, that is our calling. In the midst of struggle, persecution, famine, joblessness, and conflict, we listen to the One we know, respect, and trust because He is our Creator, our Savior, and is always with us to the end of the age.

† Prayer Before Worship †

Almighty God, open our ears, our hearts, and our minds to hear Your Word and lead us by Your Spirit to follow it, especially when doing so creates challenges and hardships for us as Your people, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude Variations on “America”

Charles Ives

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn #966 “Before You, Lord, We Bow” – Omit Verse 3

Call to Worship

P: In the name of God,

C: our Father, Creator of Life, Who has blessed us through many gifts, and by His hand of protection.

P: In the name of God,

C: the Son, Who died to give us freedom: freedom from our sins, freedom from death, and freedom from the tyranny of Satan.

P: In the name of God,

C: the Holy Spirit, Who has blessed our nation with the preaching of the Gospel.

P: We worship the one true God and only King.

C: Amen!

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Prayer for Independence Day (in Unison)

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech You that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many kindreds and tongues. Fill with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Your Law, we may show Your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of

trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Lesson “God is Our Shield” (responsively)

L: The Lord said, “Do not be afraid. I *am* your shield, your very great reward.”
(Genesis 15:1)

C: I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in Whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:1-3)

L: O Lord, let all who take refuge in You be glad, let them ever sing for joy; spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You. Surely, O Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them *with* favor – as with a shield. (Psalm 5:11-12)

C: O Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me: “God will not deliver him.” But You, O Lord, are a shield around me. You bestow glory on me and You lift up my head. (Psalm 3:1-3)

L: Through faith, you are shielded by God’s power until the coming of salvation.
(1 Peter 1:5a)

C: The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in Him and I am helped. (Psalm 28:7a)

L: Blessed are the people of God, a people saved by the Lord. God is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. (Deuteronomy 33:29)

C: We wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)

L: Every word of God is flawless. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
(Proverbs 30:5)

C: God, You are my refuge and my shield, I have put my hope in Your Word. (Psalm 119:114)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 11:8-18

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. **And he went out, not knowing where he was going.** ⁹By

faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged **that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.** ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶**But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of Response: "God of Our Fathers"

God of our fathers, Whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band!
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine!

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to Thee
for those in peril on the sea!

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
through the great spaces in the sky.
Be with them always in the air,
in darkening storms or sunlight fair.
O hear us when we lift our prayer
for those in peril in the air!

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
to all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
their land to serve, Thy law fulfill;
Be Thou the shield forevermore
from every peril to the Corps.

Lord guide the men and women who
serve in our Army and serve You.
Protect them from the power of sin
and from all foes without, within.
Lord, Jesus Christ, to You we raise
our song of gratitude and praise.

God, Who dost still the restless foam,
protect the ones we love at home.
Provide that they should always be
by Thine own grace both safe and free.
O Father, hear us when we pray
for those we love so far away.

Sermon “Do You Like – Where You Live?”

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 worshipping with us!

Offertory Solo “God Bless America”

Irving Berlin

Jennifer Anderson, mezzo soprano

(Please Stand)

Offertory Hymn “God Bless America”

God bless America, land that I love,
stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above;
from the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home, sweet home.
God bless America, my home, sweet home.

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Second Petition (from the Catechism)

P: What is the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer?

C: Thy kingdom come.

P: What does this mean?

C: The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

P: How does God’s kingdom come?

C: God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer for Independence Day

C: Our Father who art in heaven,

P: Who rules the nations for the sake of Your church, and Your own glory.

C: hallowed be Thy name,

P: Let Your Word prosper throughout our land and Your name be glorified among our people.

C: Thy kingdom come,

P: O Lord, may You rule over us, for You are the True and Good King!

C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

P: May our government be righteous; may we obey Your chosen authorities, and do Your will in our lives.

C: give us this day our daily bread;

P: As You have blessed us with good government, peace, health, freedom, and prosperity.

C: and forgive us our trespasses

P: For we are a nation of sinners who deserve only Your wrath.

C: as we forgive those who trespass against us;

P: Teach us that vengeance is Yours, O God.

C: and lead us not into temptation,

P: Even though our society is drenched in sin and filled with vice.

C: but deliver us from evil.

P: Not for our sake, but because Jesus has purchased our freedom through His blood; so be merciful to us.

C: For Thine is the kingdom

P: And so we and this nation are in Your hands.

C: and the power

P: Who may preserve us or discipline us.

C: and the glory

P: The True Glory, Hallelujah!

C: forever and ever.

P: So guard our earthly nation, and may it serve and praise You – always!

C: Amen.

P: So may it be.

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 “America the Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine T
ill all success be nobleness, And ev'ry gain divine!

O Beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

Postlude “Variations”

anonymous

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dot Cleary in honor of the birth of our nation and her own 82nd birthday.

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

Lector: Stephanie Guelzow

Acolyte/Crucifer: Dale Mierisch

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 and include "St John's Prayer and Care Notes Subscription" in the subject line of your email.



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 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