



**WELCOME TO  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
2415 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
[www.stjohnswn.com](http://www.stjohnswn.com)

**Traditional Service  
First Sunday in Advent**  
*(Divine Service Setting Two)*  
**November 29, 2015 – 10:45 a.m.**

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

**ADVENT – THANKFULL WAITING!** Waiting can be difficult even for the best of us. However, waiting is easier when we trust the one who tells us to watch carefully and wait. Jesus promises we do not wait alone. Today we gather to worship Jesus celebrating with gratitude his promised coming. May you be blessed in your preparation for Christ's advent.

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Heavenly Father, help me trust Your Word of promise that Jesus is coming soon. Help me to grow in my faith and enable me to make the most of this time before You come. Fill me with gratitude as I prepare for the celebration of Your Son's birth. Help me share my faith in You that others may see Jesus as the promised Savior and finally be filled with joy and gratitude as they trust Your promises. In Jesus name I come. Amen.

**Prelude**

***Savior of the Nations, Come***

Hugo Distler

**Welcome**

*(Please Stand)*

**Processional Hymn #331 *The Advent of Our King***

**Confession and Absolution**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Lighting of the First Advent Candle

*(Maranatha is an Aramaic word that Paul used in his farewell greeting to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 16:22. Christians for centuries have used this word as a brief prayer inviting the Lord Jesus to return soon in power and glory.)*

P: Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." *Isaiah 9:2*

Hasten, O God, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. *Psalms 70:1*

**C: Maranatha! Our Lord, come!**

P: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. *Revelation 22:17*

**C: Maranatha! Our Lord, come!**

P: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." *Rev. 22:20*

**C: Maranatha! Our Lord, come!**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Maranatha! Lord Jesus, come!**

## Choral Call to Advent

*The first Advent candle is lit.*

## Introit

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

**C: Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?**

P: Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

**C: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.**

P: Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

**C: For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**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.**

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

## Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty Father, You provide for our every need of body and soul. Fix our eyes upon Your Son and our Redeemer as He comes to reconcile us to You. Fill us with thankfulness and praise so that we may overflow with Your love in our relationships with one another; 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

**Jeremiah 33:14–16**

*(The righteous branch brings salvation.)*

<sup>14</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Lesson

**1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

*(Paul prays for the Church to be filled with thankfulness and love.)*

<sup>9</sup> What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

## Alleluia and Verse

One note introduction



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 19:28–40

*(We praise the King who comes to save us.)*

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



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>28</sup> When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

No introduction



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 – Mark Meier**

**Hymn of the Day #683 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me***

**Sermon**

***Thankful Hearts Abounding in Love***

**1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

**Offering**

*(Please Stand)*

### Prayer of the Church

P: God, in You we trust. Do not let us be put to shame.

**C: You are God, our Savior. Our hope is in You all day long.**

P: We give You thanks, Lord God Almighty, for You are good and Your love endures forever.

**C: We praise You for fulfilling Your gracious promises in sending Jesus, the righteous one. As He came to do what is just and right, empower us by the Spirit that we may trust Him in all things.**

P: Almighty God, You also remind us to be prepared, watchful, and vigilant as we await the return of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and Lord of heaven and earth. Help us willingly and joyfully to remain involved in worship and the study of Your Word, knowing that through these means, You keep us prepared and ready.

**C: Keep us from neglecting Your Word of truth that builds our faith and trust in your promises.**

P: Almighty God, be with the members of this congregation, that when we are impatient, Your presence and the reality of Your loving care would surround us.

**C: Increase our trust in your presence and guidance.**

P: Almighty God, in particular we pray today for ..., that You would bring them every essential spiritual encouragement, endurance in suffering, patience amidst trial and tribulation, and hearts prepared for Your incarnation.

**C: May they trust in your continued healing care.**

P: Almighty God, we pray for our nation, whose leaders need discernment, zeal, and integrity; for us as citizens of this vast country, especially unbelievers, that they may be led to see Your glory.

**C: Grant us all patience as we await Your perfect rule in the life to come.**

P: Almighty God, bless our District President, John Denninger, as he prepares a call list for St. John's next Pastor.

**C: Grant him guidance, O Holy Spirit, that Your mission and ministry may thrive among us in the years ahead.**

*(Other petitions offered here.)*

P: In the name of Jesus, we pray, confident that in Your grace, You will answer our prayers.

**C: Amen.**

**TODAY WE WILL 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? This is judging it rightly. This is what scripture teaches. (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.)

**† Service of the Sacrament †**

**Preface**

P: The Lord be with you.

One note introduction



## Sanctus

2 Measure introduction

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us by sending Your Son to enter into Your creation and to redeem us by His saving work. By His death, He has destroyed our death. By His resurrection, He has given us life forever.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, fill us with thankful hearts and grateful lives. Because You have first loved us, teach us to love one another. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## 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

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

### Agnus Dei

4 Measure introduction

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be Seated)

**Distribution Hymns: #350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come  
#334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You  
#332 Savior of the Nations, Come**

*(Please Stand)*

**Post-Communion Canticle - Thank the Lord**

3 Measure introduction

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

P: Let us pray.

Father of mercy, with thankful hearts, we offer our lives to You. In Your Son's body and blood, You have filled us again with Your pardon and peace. Father, lead us. Father, teach us. Create in us a spirit of humble gratitude and constant love as we live out our callings as Your children; through 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.**

**Recessional Hymn #333 *Once He Came in Blessing***

**Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Paul Manz

**Did you pick up the Separate Announcement  
sheet "**Weekly News**" in the church entry?**

**Advent Midweek Worship**  
**Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.**

**“THE POWER OF CHRIST PREVAILS”**

The Church Year begins in Advent by telling the story of our Lord’s earthly ministry. As we prepare to celebrate His first coming at Christmas, we also look to the final resurrection when He will come again on the Last Day. We ask the Lord to prepare our hearts to make ready the way for the Lord. In our midweek meditations, we will consider the power of hope, the power of peace, and the power of love. Claim the blessings God’s Holy Spirit offers you gather and prepare the celebration of our Savior’s Birth. Our Advent Services each Wednesday will use the Holden Evening Prayer as our order of worship.

Dec. 2            “The Power of Hope in Christ”

Plan to join us for Supper at 5:30-6:30pm served by Eve Storoshenko & Friends.  
Our menu will be: Sloppy Joes, chips, applesauce,  
carrot & celery with ranch dressing. Desserts provided by members.  
Plan to join us for Fellowship and Worship.

**St. John’s School Christmas Programs**

Kindergarten through second graders will present their Christmas program on December 2 for chapel at 8:30am and on Thursday evening December 3 at 7pm for families and friends.

Grades three through five will present their Christmas program on Wednesday December 9 for chapel at 8:30am and on Thursday evening December 10 at 7pm for families and friends.

The preschool children will present their Christmas program on Wednesday December 16 for chapel at 8:30am and on Thursday evening December 17 at 7pm for families and friends.

We love to have you join us as we proclaim the joyous  
news of Jesus’ birth!

## **What is the Meaning of the Advent Wreath and Candles?**

**By Lesley Aeschliman**



### **Overview**

The Advent season consists of the four Sundays prior to and including Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath and candles are symbols that represent the anticipation of the arrival of the Christ child.

### **Advent Wreath**

The wreath is made out of evergreen branches, which are a representation of life, even after all else has died.

### **Candle of Hope**

The first blue candle is also known as the candle of prophecy. It can represent the promise that foretold Christ's birth or the hope we have in Christ.

### **Candle of Peace**

The second blue candle is a reminder of the peace that God brings to us by forgiving our sins.

### **Candle of Joy**

The third Advent candle is pink and represents the joy the shepherds felt at hearing the news of Christ's birth or the joy that God brings into our lives.

### **Candle of Love**

The fourth blue candle represents God's love, demonstrated by His son's death to save us.

### **Christ Candle**

This white candle sits at the center of the wreath and is not lit until Christmas Eve. This candle represents the birth of Jesus Christ.

Note: We use blue candles instead of purple at Advent, but the meaning is the same.



# St. John's

## LUTHERAN

Church & School

***Our Sunday Worship*** - Morning services are at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and  
Adult Bible Class both begin at 9:45 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.*

**Rev. Roger P. Schoolcraft,**  
**Intentional Interim Pastor**  
725-1651 x406 (office)  
336-655-5710 (cell)  
[pastor@stjohns.ws.org](mailto:pastor@stjohns.ws.org)

**Mark Edmiston, Principal**  
**Tom Baldwin, Director of Admissions and Community Relations**  
**Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship**  
**Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship**

**Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Jonathan & Bethany Larson in honor of their second wedding anniversary and in thanksgiving for the congregation of St. John's and all their support. We love and miss you.

**Ushers:** Don Davidson, Ryan Davidson, Stephanie Kiel & John Williams

**Worship Assistants** Don Henderson & Dave Lundmark