



*Rejoice
Always!*

**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**
2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.stjohnsWS.com

**Traditional Service
The Third Sunday in Advent
(Divine Service Setting One)
December 13, 2015 – 10:45 a.m.**

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

IN ADVENT, WAIT WITH JOY! Waiting can be filled with impatience, anxiety and worry. We live in a culture that doesn't like to wait. Instant rebates, fast foods and 24/7 tell us that people want everything at a moment's notice. Advent is a season when we prepare joyfully for our Lord's coming. May you be blessed as you worship Christ and prepare for His coming anew.

† Prayer Before Worship †

Come O Holy Spirit and fill my heart with patience and joy as I await the coming of Christ, my Lord and Savior. Bless my worship today as I hear Your Word and commune with You. Help me to share the joy of this Season with others who may find it hard to rejoice at this time. In the name of Jesus, my coming Savior, I pray. Amen.

Prelude

An Advent Meditation

arr. David Lasky

Welcome

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn #811 *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices*

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 Advent Wreath

P: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

C: The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

P: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say:

C: Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted.

P: Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things;

C: let this be known to all the world.

P: Three flames leap up in preparation for the coming of our Lord. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

C: for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

Choral Call to Advent

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Evelyn Tanner

*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I say rejoice!*

(Three Candles are lit)

Kyrie

Cantor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with You.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: Stir up our hearts and fill us with joy, Lord God, that our hearts may be open to Your Word and that we may walk in the way of Your only Son.

C: By the promise of His coming empower us to serve You with pure hearts and a renewed spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with You and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14–20

(Rejoice; the Lord is in your midst. He will rejoice over you.)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4–7

(Christians are called to rejoice because we have the peace of Christ in our hearts.)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand)

Alleluia and Verse

6 note introduction



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

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major. The first staff begins with a 6-note introduction: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

(Jesus, through words and deeds, tells who He is and explains John's mission.)

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

No introduction



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The musical notation is a single staff in G major, starting with a 4-note introduction: G4, A4, B4, C5. The lyrics 'Glo - ry to You, O Lord.' are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And

blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

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 #737 *Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing*

Sermon "Why Rejoice? **JESUS!** Philipians 4:4 - 7

Offering

Anthem *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arr. K. Lee Scott

(Please Stand)

Prayer of the Church

P: People of God, St. Paul invites us to give thanks to the Lord and to call on His name.
Come before Him now with humble and joy-filled hearts.

C: Lord, setting aside all anxiety, we bring to You our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving, confident that You hear us for the sake of Christ Jesus.

P: Remove all fear from our hearts, O God. Do not let Satan terrorize us with our sin or cause us to doubt Your love and our salvation.

C: Increase our joy, O Lord, for You are our strength, our song and our salvation.

P: May Your kingdom come among us, Lord, as we proclaim that Your name is exalted.

C: Bless our missionaries as they make known among the nations what You have done.

P: O Lord, we profess that You are mighty to save. Take delight in these Your servants who are in need of Your powerful hand this day we pray especially for Bless them with healing according to your will.

C: Give to them that peace that passes all understanding. Guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- P: We rejoice in the gift of our call committee, especially..... Grant them your Holy Spirits blessing as they continue to prepare us to call a pastor.
- C: Bless and guide our District President, John Denninger as he prepares a call list for us.**
- P: Strengthen, we pray, those who serve by protecting and defending our nation at home and abroad. Let not their hands grow weak.
- C: Let them know the joy of Your presence, guidance and protection while they experience violence and terror.**
- P: Prepare all who desire to receive the Sacrament of Your body and blood, O Christ, that they may be filled with the joy of Your forgiveness and peace. Lord in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**

(Other petitions offered here)

- P: O Lord, our Lord, how great You are, the Holy One of Israel.
- C: Be great among us today and every day and give us joy in our salvation.
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



C And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, and whose gracious, forgiving presence among us now fills us with rejoicing and celebration. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

No Introduction



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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 those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

In Your gracious mercy, with this assurance of our Savior's presence now, remove all sin, doubt, weakness, and fear. Awaken in us true rejoicing and celebration with those who have gone before us and are in Your eternal presence. 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

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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

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."

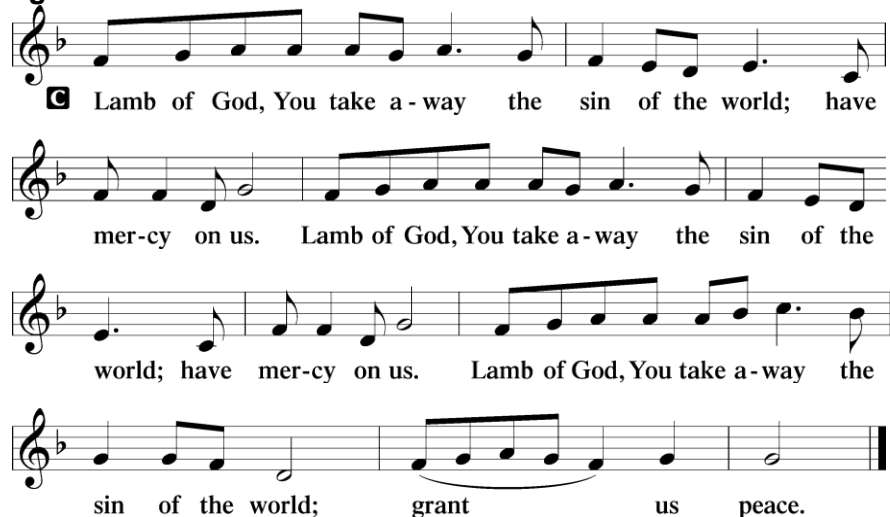
Pax Domini

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

One note introduction



Agnus Dei



☐ 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.

(Be Seated)

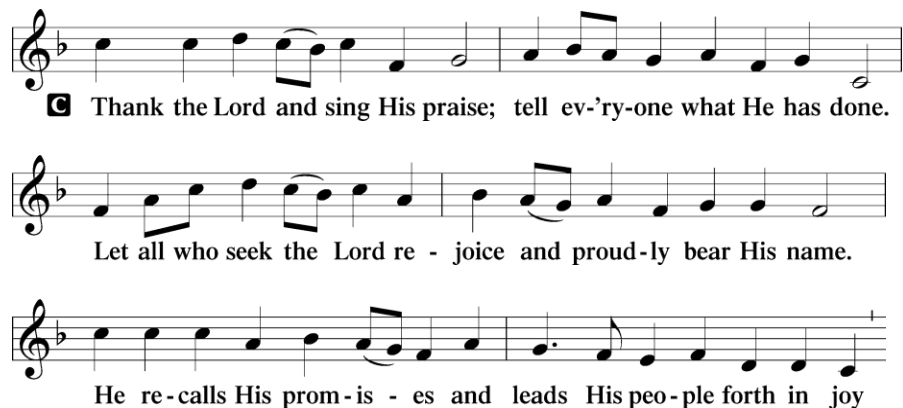
Distribution Hymns:

- #641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart**
- #341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**
- #720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

(Please Stand)

Post-Communion Canticle

6 note introduction



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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.

We give thanks, almighty God, that in this Sacrament You have bestowed on us Your peace which surpasses all understanding. Guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus, and accompany us throughout our daily lives with rejoicing and celebration; 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 #813 *Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

arr. David Lasky

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. 16 “The Power of Love in Christ”

Plan to join us for Supper at 5:30-6:30pm served by the Fellowship Ministry Team. Our menu will be: Spaghetti, salad & bread. Desserts provided by members.
Plan to join us for Fellowship and Worship.

St. John’s School Christmas Programs

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 was we proclaim the joyous
news of Jesus’ birth!



- Thursday, December 24 – 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship
Thursday, December 24 – 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship with Holy Communion
- Friday, December 25 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship
with Holy Communion
- Sunday, December 27– 10:45 a.m. One Service Only
with Holy Communion/
9:45am Bible Class &
Sunday School
- Thursday, December 31 – 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship
with Holy Communion

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



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 8th 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@stjohnswws.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 Reg & Carol Koontz.

Ushers: Bob Hoisington, Holly Richardson, Butch Roberts & John Williams

Worship Assistants Steve Anderson & Dale Mierisch