

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

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

www.stjohnswn.com

**Traditional Service
The Epiphany of Our Lord**
(Divine Service Setting One)
January 3, 2016 – 10:45 a.m.

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

JESUS, Brightens Our Lives! Just because we put away our Christmas lights, doesn't mean THE LIGHT has gone. The Light of Christ continues in our hearts and lives. Today marks the beginning of a transition in God's House that His light might shine brighter in and through our hearts and worship as we gather in this Sanctuary later next month. Let this Epiphany also be a time to reveal the light of Jesus as Savior clearly in our lives and as we worship Him and live that others may see Jesus as Savior and follow His light that leads out of darkness to heaven.

† Prayer Before Worship †

Heavenly Father, as I come to worship You in this new year, bless me with Your Holy Spirit. Remove from me any darkness that would seem to surround me. Let Your light and power shine through me that I might do Your holy will in my life. Enable others to see Christ's light in me that they may also worship You. In Jesus' name I come. Amen.

Prelude

The Morning Star

Daniel Pinkham

Welcome

(Please Stand)

Processional Hymn #412 *The People That in Darkness Sat*

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

P: Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C: The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.

P: But you are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.

C: His glory and grace is shining on us.

P: The Lord is present.

C: We are on holy ground.

P: Let us reflect the Light of God's love.

C: so others may live in the light.

P: Empower us, O Savior!

C: Enlighten us, O Holy Spirit!

P: Forgive us, Lord Jesus!

C: Forgiven, send us out to the world with Your Word, O Light of Life.

Confession and Absolution

P: In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence
Ephesians 3:12

C: Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory. *Psalm 72:19*

P: In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

(silence for reflection)

Almighty God, King of all,

All: we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh and took on our sin for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.

P: God's grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise #400 *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

O God, by the leading of a star You revealed Your only-begotten Son to all nations; lead us now, we pray, to know the light of Christ more fully and enable us to reveal His saving love to others that everyone everywhere may be delivered from darkness and know Your divine goodness in heaven. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C Amen.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1–6

(Arise and shine for Your Light has come.)

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they

all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 3:1–12

(Jesus has come for Gentiles [non-Jews] as well as Jews.)

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.
⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Solo

Behold that Star

Spiritual arr. by Harry Burleigh

Jennifer Anderson, Mezzo Soprano

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

(The Magi follow a star to visit the Light of the World.)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

- P: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,
- C: **“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”**
- P: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.
- C: **“In Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”**
- P: Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
- C: **“Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.”**
- P: After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- C: **When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.**
- P: On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him.
- C: **Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.**
- P: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.
- All: This is the Word of the Lord, who is the Light of the World.**
- P: After worshiping the Christ-Child, the wise men returned home by a different route, avoiding King Herod’s kingdom of darkness.
- C: **After we worship the Christ-Child today, let us wisely journey home by a different route—one where God’s Word lights the path and avoids Satan, the prince of darkness.**

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 – Pastor Schoolcraft

Hymn of the Day #397 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Sermon

“Repositioning Our Focus”

Matthew 2: 1-12

We Worship the Newborn King with our Offerings

Anthem

Arise, Shine; for Your Light Has Come

Mark Bender

(Please Stand)

Prayers of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(Silence for personal prayer.)

P: Creator of Light, we praise You during these darkest weeks of the year that You do not leave us in spiritual darkness. When You spoke the Word at creation, there was light. When Your people wandered in the valleys of deep spiritual darkness, You sent Your Son Jesus as the Light of the World. When we needed the gift of faith, Your Spirit desired to move in our hearts to call us with the Gospel. We pray

C: Lord, let Your light shine in our lives each day.

P: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the Nations, You were not afraid to enter the darkness of our world, sharing the plight of Your people and the temptations that plague us all. You desired to endure the darkness of the cross so that we might be forgiven of our sins and live in the light of Your resurrection.

C: Lord, let the light of Your grace shine upon us.

P: Holy Spirit, You enlighten us with Your gifts. We ask Your blessing upon our congregation that we might fulfill Your desires in this new year. We seek Your presence with our sister congregations. We pray for Your strength upon those who serve You around the world. Let the light of Your grace shine upon Your people.

C: Lord, let the light of Your grace shine upon us.

P: We pray O Lord Christ, let Your healing light shine upon the sick, all who suffer, and upon the grieving and those near death, [*especially* . . .], that all who call upon the Lord may know the comfort of His presence and the gift of His peace. Let the light of Your grace shine upon Your people.

C: Lord, let the light of Your grace shine upon us.

(Other petitions offered here.)

P: Holy Trinity, source of all light, You give us more than we desire or deserve.

**C: Provide us with what we need, for You live and rule as the source of our life—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

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



☐ 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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



☐ 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 -



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Glorious Father, You are the only source of light and life. As once You visited Your light upon creation, so now shine with the brightness of Your glory. As You called Your people Israel and the whole world to the light revealed in Your Son, so call us today to the light of His forgiveness and grace made manifest here, in this Holy Supper, according to His promise.

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."

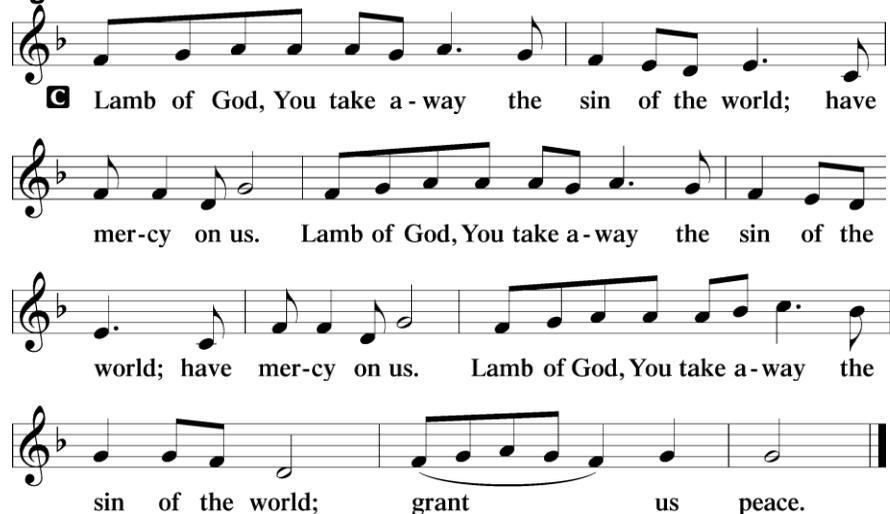
Pax Domini

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.

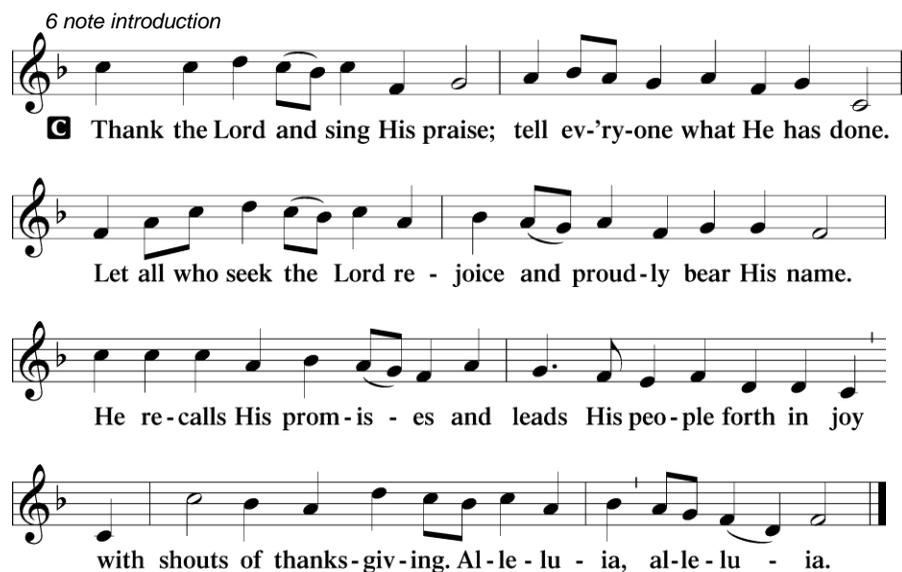
(Be Seated)

Distribution Hymns: #399 *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*
#873 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*
#825 *Rise, Shine, You People*

(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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Lord of Light, You have shone upon us the bright and eternal light of love through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us, O Lord, as we renovate Your sanctuary to abandon the shadows of darkness and walk in the light of Christ with our lives and our worship that we may reflect Your righteousness and proclaim Your glory. Grant that what we have received from Your Word and Table we may keep with faithful hearts, minds, and lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 #409 *Hail, O Source of Every Blessing*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

J.S. Bach

Sunday, January 10

Both Services in Fellowship Hall!

Please remember as you come to church.

The Sanctuary will be closed for safety reasons. Thanks!



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@stjohnsww.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

Ushers: Larry Bowman, Lisa Little, Bob Sparks & John Williams

Worship Assistants Nathan Kottowski & Dale Mierisch